LEBANON NETWORK OF HISTORICAL CITIES

24TH MEDITERRANEAN EXCHANGE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURISM | OCTOBER 27TH- 30TH, 2022 - PAESTUM, SALERNO, ITALY

وزارة السياحة اللبنانية
MINISTÈRE LIBANAIS DU TOURISME
LEBANESE MINISTRY OF TOURISM

TYRE صور

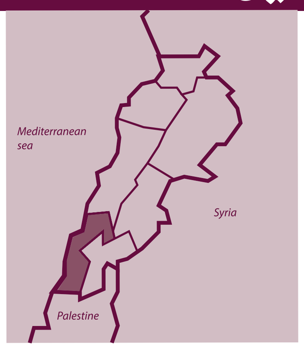
THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE مسار الفينيقيين

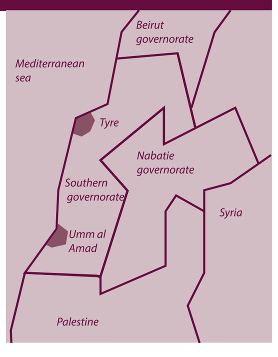
INTRODUCTION

Built around 2700 B.C., Tyre is the home of Elissar, the Phoenician princess who founded Carthage, as well as the home of Europa who was abducted by Zeus disguised as a white bull. Two main archaeological sites – *"Al-Bass"* and *"Al-Mina"* – are testimony to its historical significance. Tyre was originally made up of two settlements, one on the mainland and the other on an island, which were connected by a causeway. In Tyre, the remains of the Hellenistic and Roman city – a Triumphal Arch, a Hippodrome and paved streets – are well preserved. The paved road passes under the imposing Triumphal arch to the hippodrome, which can hold up to 20,000 spectators.

Tyre is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).

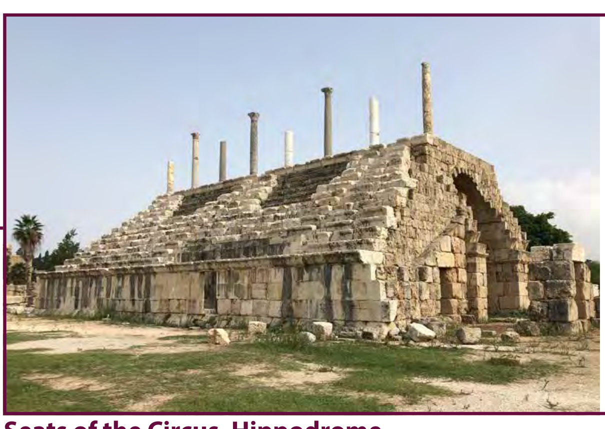




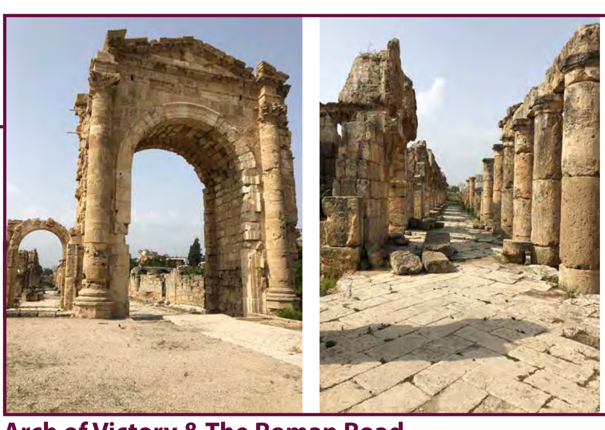


HISTORICAL MAPPING




Seats of the Circus, Hippodrome

The Hippodrome construction dates to the first century A.D., and it is 480 meters long by 120 meters wide, with a crowd capacity of 40,000 spectators. It is considered the second largest hippodrome of its kind in the ancient world and the best preserved and was used primarily for popular sports like chariot racing, and Olympic Games activities like running and pentathlon. Underneath the Hippodrome seats area was a marketplace, and close-by a wall with holes used for tying up the animal used for transportation means. Vaulted passages take to Hippodrome seats through several entrances, divided according to the social status of team supporters.


Arch of Victory & The Roman Road

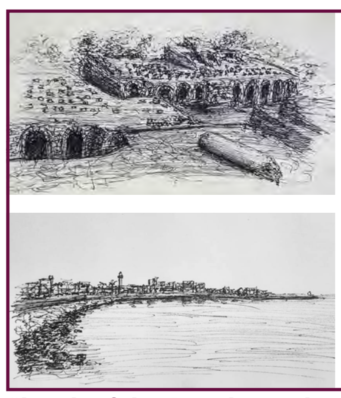
The construction of the monumental gate dates to second century A.D., most likely during the rule of the Roman emperor Hadrian. Since it was built, the external shape has changed several times. It is 21 meters high. The northern tower floor covered with mosaics, that still in site, and the southern tower's floor was paved with stone.

The Roman road was constructed around the first century A.D., runs from the Monumental gate to the west. It has a convex shape and traces of chariots wheel marks from transportation and chariot races are visible on the road's flagstones.

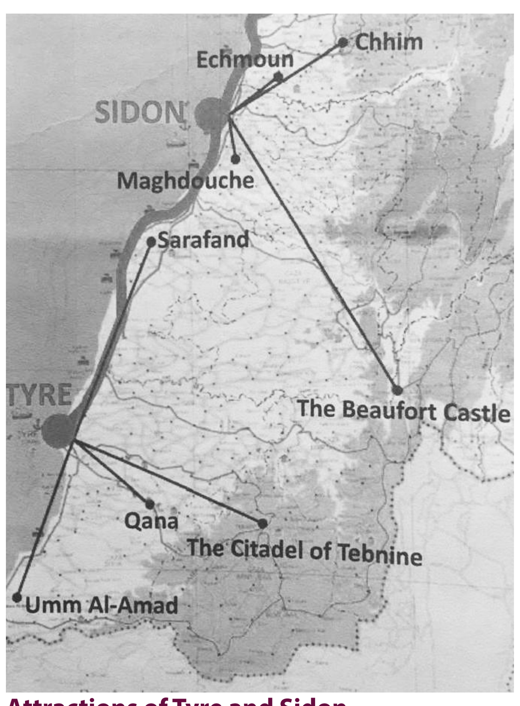
Legend

- Phoenician Civilization (Iron Age) 1200 – 333 B.C.
- Greek - Roman Period 333 B.C. – 300 A.D.
- Roman and Byzantine Period 64 B.C. – 635 A.D.
- Crusader Period 1090 - 1099 A.D.
- Mameluke Period 1291- 1516 A.D.
- Ottoman Period 1516 - 1917 A.D.


Umm Al-Amad


Sketch of the Arcades in the Baths & Coastal Edge

The existing bath is characterized by its enormity and dates to the Romans in the second and third century A.D. The bath's level was raised by arcades, to avoid the humidity caused by seawater and underground water. Today, the marble floor and the walls of the bath do not exist. Behind the baths were the heating rooms that supply the building with hot water.



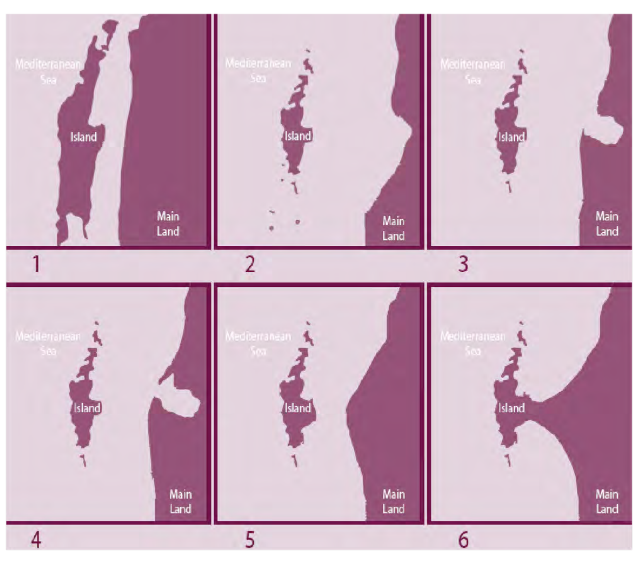
Attractions of Tyre and Sidon


Umm Al-Amad


Umm Al-Amad

Umm Al-Amad is located on a hill close to the sea and temples were built overlooking the sea and the port. The remains are in an area around Al-Naqora, dating back to the second century B.C., if not earlier. The city was a religious center for a Phoenician cult, especially that of the Phoenician God Baal Hamon, whose memory lives on in a nearby valley known as Wadi Hamol (the Valley of Hamol). The site still contains the remains of two important temples, as well as other buildings, dating back to the second century and third century B.C., and represents the last of the Phoenician culture under the rule of the Greeks. Several steles bearing Phoenician inscriptions were discovered on the site, and an important sundial stone.

FORMATION OF THE PENINSULA



1: Reconstructed island dimensions 6000 B.C. The bathymetry has been calculated based on 5 meters of eustasy, 3 meters of tectonic subsidence offset against 1 meter of sediment accretion.

2: Reconstructed island dimensions 4000 B.C. and maximum coastal ingression. The bathymetry has been calculated based on 2 meters of eustasy and 3 meters of tectonic subsidence.

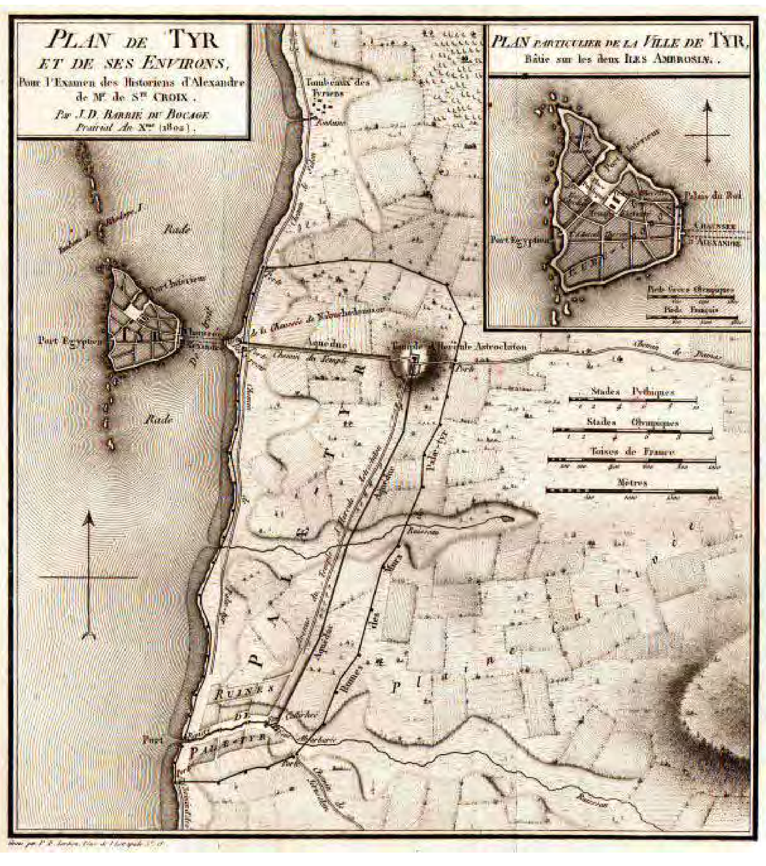
3: Reconstructed island dimensions 2000 B.C. and maximum coastal ingression. The bathymetry has been calculated based on 1.5 meters of eustasy, 3 meters of tectonic subsidence.

4: Reconstructed island dimensions 1000 B.C. maximum coastal ingression. The bathymetry has been calculated based on 1 meter of eustasy, 3 meters of tectonic subsidence.

5: Reconstructed island dimensions 330 B.C. The bathymetry has been calculated based on 3 meters of tectonic subsidence.

6: Present day coastal morphology and bathymetry.

HISTORICAL MAP



Tyre was built on an island in the third Millennium B.C. The political and administrative capital achieved greatness, especially in the Phoenician period. During the fourth century B.C., Alexander the Macedonian connected the island with the mainland. The mole he built, also served as a dam for the accumulation of sea sands, which eventually altered Tyre from an island to a peninsula.

Tyre's transformation allowed it to expand the city and implement an innovative urban plan on the new land. Construction reached its zenith in the Byzantine and Roman Periods in the 6th century A.D. However, earthquakes shattered Tyre in the 6th century, destroying most urban life, and left the city diminished. During the Arab and Crusader Periods, the city was reduced to a small part of the old island.

AERIAL VIEWS: 1918 A.D. vs. 2015 A.D.


Tyre - 1918


Tyre - 2015

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

2750 B.C. - The Foundation of the City of Tyre

1375 B.C. - Establishment of Egyptian Influence

969 B.C. - Expansion of Tyre by King Hiram
He transformed the city ports into international ports. Tyre reaches its peak in economy and prosperity.

334 B.C. - Revolution of the Slaves
Slaves burned down the city of Tyre.

332 B.C. - Formation of Peninsula
Alexander the Macedonian took Tyre by building a 20 meter wide bridge.

64 B.C. - 635 A.D. - Roman and Byzantine Period
Tyre announced the Romans as their new protectors.

313 A.D. - The First Basilica
Tyrians built the first Basilica during the Byzantine Period.

636 - 696 A.D. - Islamic Period
Arabs controlled the region after defeating the Byzantines.

1090 - 1099 A.D. - Crusader Period
The Crusaders invaded Tyre.

1516 - 1917 A.D. - Ottoman Period
Tyre became part of the Ottoman State and belonged mostly to the state of Acre.

1943 - Lebanese State
The state of Lebanon was established and Tyre was one of its major cities.

1948 - Palestinian Refugees
The refuge of the Palestinians who built several camps in and around Tyre.

1975 - Lebanese Civil War
Tyre was affected by the Lebanese Civil War and Israeli invasion.

EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Despite the great importance of the archaeological sites and historical ruins in Tyre, they are exposed to several dangerous threats due to the lack of maintenance and monitoring:
• The floor mosaics are not bordered, and visitors can step over them without any prevention.
• The Roman Hippodrome is accessed by some vehicles as a road shortcut.
• The sites lack security guards and touristic guides.

Most of the Phoenician sites are in ruin due to the several earthquakes which hit the region for centuries and the accumulation of several layers of civilizations above them. Moreover, after 1978, the Palestinian camp of Albass expanded towards the Roman archaeological site which now threatens the existing ruins and the potential unexcavated those underground.

However, the Al-bass Roman site has become a well-known landmark in Lebanon due to its unique features and the festivals held there every year.



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LEBANON NETWORK OF HISTORICAL CITIES

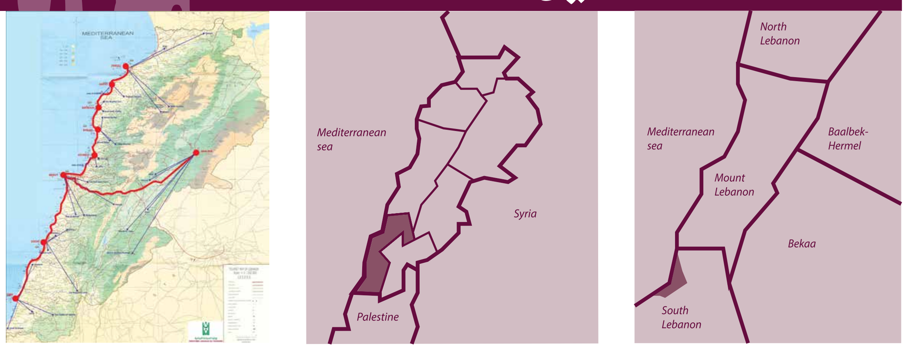
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SIDON

THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

صيدا
مسار الفينيقيين



INTRODUCTION

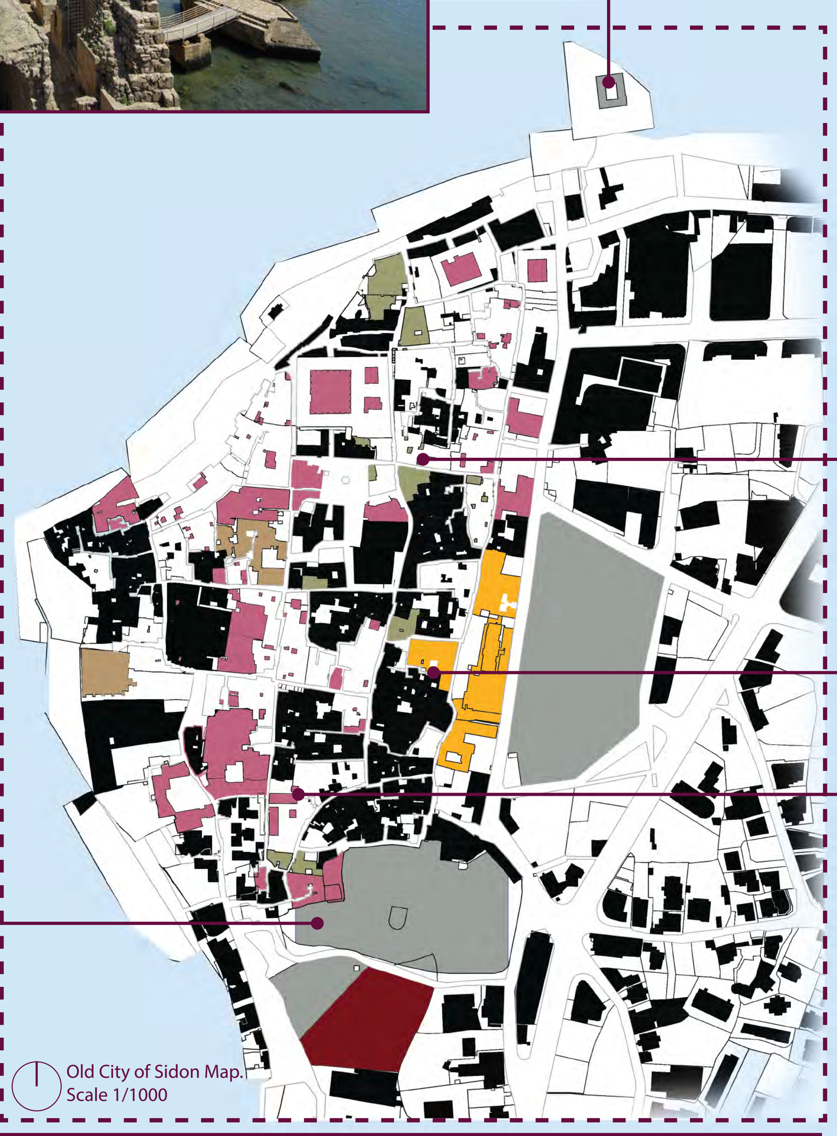
Sidon is known for its multi-layered sea citadel. Founded in the fourth Millennium B.C. It is one of three major port city-states of the Canaanite/Phoenician epoch, cited 35 times in the Old Testament. In its long history, it has been home to the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamelukes and Ottomans.

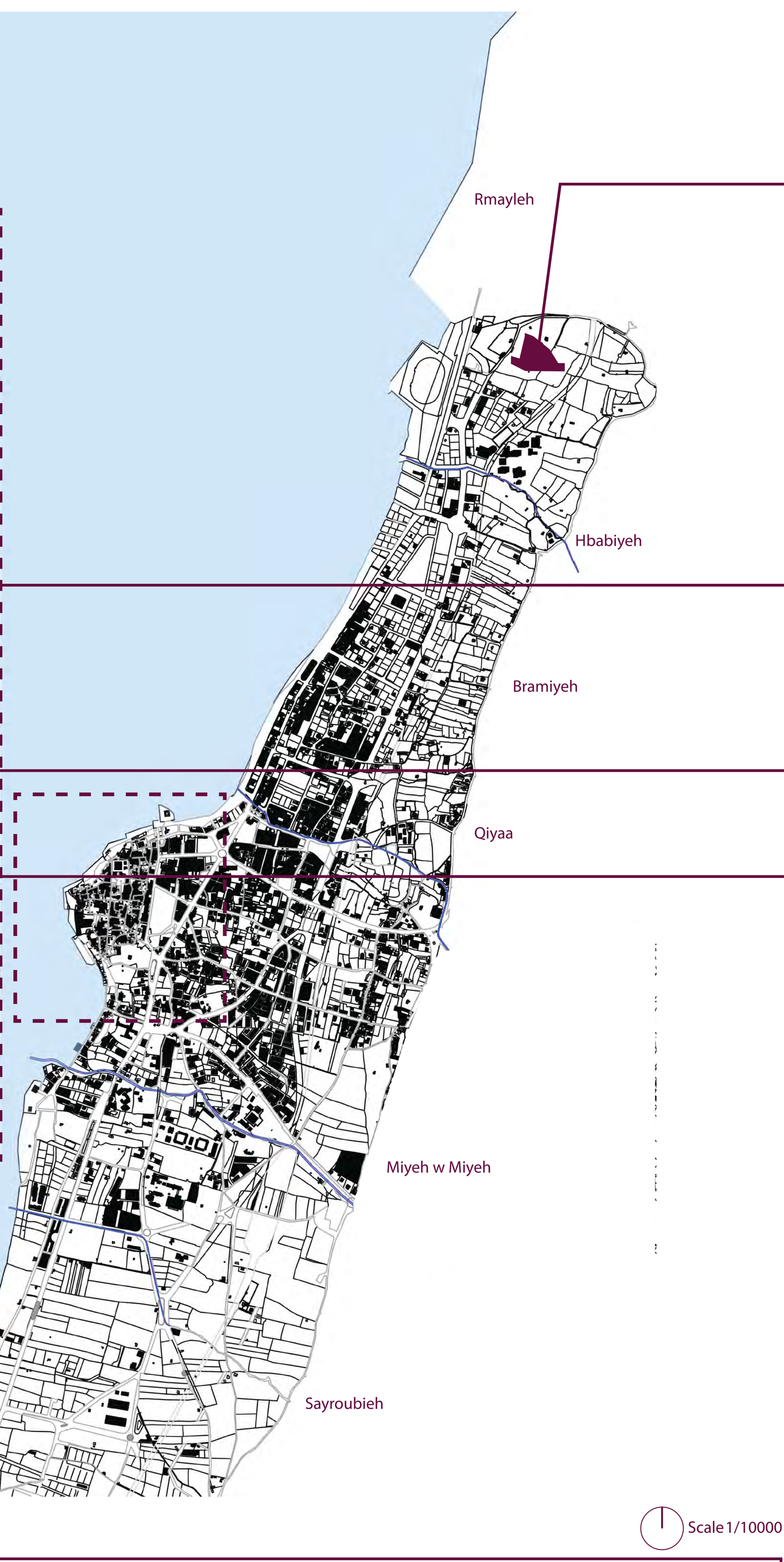
HISTORICAL MAPPING

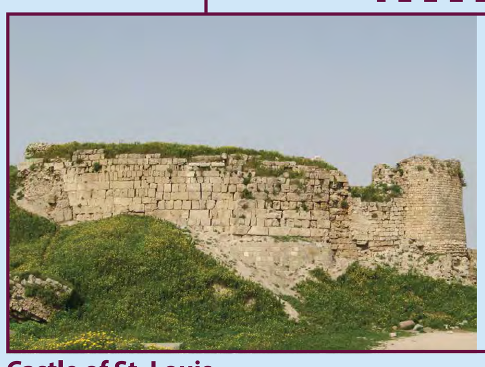


Sidon's Sea Castle

- Constructed by the Crusaders in 1228 to defend Sidon's harbor.
- Destroyed by the Mamelukes in 1291 to prevent the Crusaders from re-establishing.
- Restored by Fakhr El-Dine II in the early 17th century.
- The small domed mosque was erected by the Ottomans.
- The narrow causeway to the castle was added by the Arabs.
- Currently it is a touristic spot and historical landmark in Sidon.







- Built as a Crusader fortress by King Louis IX in 1254.
- Ruined by the Mamelukes 1292.
- Became a fortress in the 10th century by Fatimid Caliph Al-Mu'izz li-Din Allah.
- Rebuilt by Fakhr El-Din II in the 17th century.
- Served as a shelter for refugees of the 1948 Palestinian exodus.
- It was further damaged by the Israeli shelling.
- Plans are being made to restore the castle. Nowadays, it is used as a touristic spot.

Castle of St. Louis

Legend

- Neolithic Age 24,000 – 3000 B.C.
- Phoenician Civilization (Iron Age) 1200 – 333 B.C.
- Crusader Period 1090 - 1099 A.D.
- Mameluke Period 1291- 1516 A.D.
- Ottoman Period 1516 - 1917 A.D.
- Lebanese State 1943 - Present

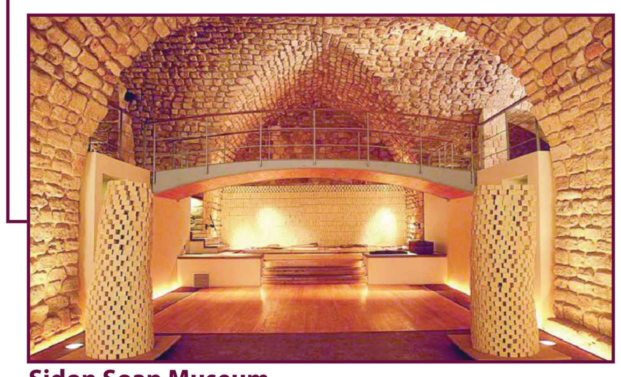


Temple of Echmoun



- Ali Hammoud occupied by the Hammouds in1721 A.D.
- Youssef Debbane 1800.
- Debbane Family and Sacy Family.
- Raphaël Youssef Debbané restored the palace in 1902.
- It became a home to Palestinian refugees who fled from the camps in the south, staying there until 1982 when Israel bombarded the area. Later, the house was destroyed.
- The Debbané Foundation carries out repair work. To preserve the palace's historical and artistic significance. The foundation plans to undertake its restoration properly and have it designated as a museum.
- Present: Museum.

Debbane Palace

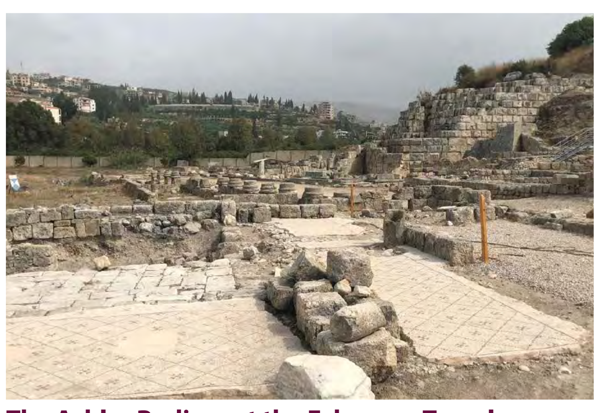


Sidon Soap Museum



Khan Al-Franj

HISTORICAL FINDINGS: TEMPLE OF ECHMOUN



The Ashlar Podium at the Echmoun Temple:
The pyramidal structure was superimposed during Persian rule by a massive ashlar podium constructed from heavily bossed limestone blocks that measured more than 3 metres across by 1 metre thick, which were laid down in courses 1 metre high. The terrace, top of the podium, was once covered by a Greco-Persian style marble temple, probably built by artisans around 500 B.C. The marble temple has been reduced to a few remaining stone fragments due to theft.



Throne of Astarte at the Echmoun Temple:
A large stone throne carved of a single block of granite with Egyptian style. It is flanked by two sphinx figures and surrounded by two lion sculptures.

The throne, attributed to the Sidonian goddess Astarte, rests against the chapel wall, which is embellished by relief sculptures of hunting scenes. The important Astarte basin lost its function during the second century A.D. and was filled with earth and statue fragments.

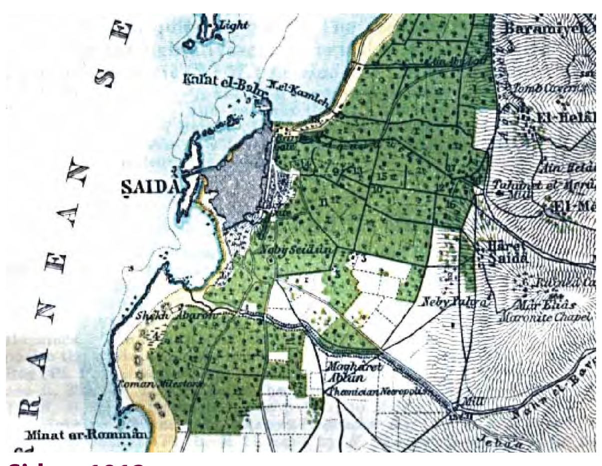


Mosaics from the Roman Period Colonnade

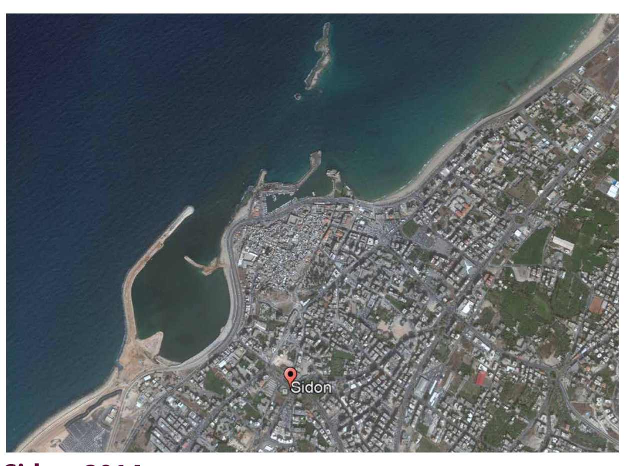


Lion Sculpture Placed on the Side of the Throne of Astarte

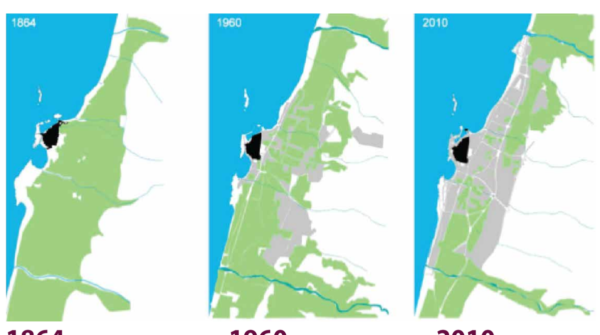
URBAN MORPHOLOGY



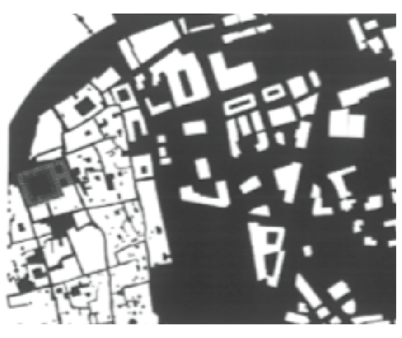
Sidon, 1912



Sidon, 2014
Overall historical mapping accounts for the rapid loss of agricultural land. The average loss of agricultural landscape can be calculated at a pace of 9 ha every two years.



1864 **1960** **2010**



The discontinuity of urban morphology between the old city and the new city, distinguishing between the contrast, from grid to space division.

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

3000 - 1200 B.C. - Bronze Age
- 3000 - 2000 B.C.: City founded by Sidon during the Early Bronze Age.
- 2000 B.C.: Its port developed, and trade opened on to the world.
- 15th- 14th century B.C.: The city's influences extended to the entire Mediterranean.
- 12th - 10th century B.C.: Sidon became an important commercial center with international trade.

900 - 550 B.C. - Assyrian and Babylonian
887 B.C.: The King of Assyria appeared on the Mediterranean coast and exacted tribute from the Phoenician cities.

330 - 550 B.C. - Persian Period
380 B.C.: Golden Age under the Persians, as capital of their first province including Syria, Palestine, and Cyprus.

330 - 64 B.C. - Hellenistic Age
- 334 B.C.: Alexander the Great conquers the city.
- Stadium Agora Baths and Temple of Echmoun were built.

64 B.C. - 635 A.D. - Roman and Byzantine Period
- The city acquired a colony statue.
- It became a republic under the Roman rules.
- 551 A.D.: Sidon became a great center for the production and trade of skills.

636 - 696 A.D. - Islamic Period
- 636 A.D.: Under the Islamic rule, the territory was divided into funds.
- Sidon was a part of the Damascus fund.

1090 - 1099 A.D. - Crusader Period
The city became part of the kingdom of Jerusalem.

1187 A.D. - Ayyubid Period
The Crusaders were defected, as the battle of Tiberius Saladin captures it.

1291- 1516 A.D. - Mameluke Period
The Mamelukes controlled the city.

1516 - 1917 A.D. - Ottoman Period
- 1516: Ottomans took over and Sidon was enriched with monuments such as mosques, madrasas, khans, and hamams.
- 1594 - 1683: Center of power for Fakhreddine. Sidon was rebuilt by Fakhreddine in the 17th Century.
- 1660 - 1840: Center of Wilaya and it became a capital.
- 1791: French driven out of Sidon by Al-Jazzar.
- 1831: Bombardment during Ottoman European companion to remove Bachir Shihab II.
- 1873: Shakrieh Road built to the east and the old city opened.

1920 - 1943 - French Mandate
The French Mandate integrated into Great Lebanon.

1943 - Lebanese State
- 1943: Riad El-Soloh major public works.
- 1948: Israel occupation of Palestine and the first refugee camp in Sidon.
- 1975 - 1990: Lebanese Civil War.
- 1982 - 1985: Israel occupation, and destruction of sea front of the old city.

EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Going through the Temple of Echmoun, the first impression was the difficulty to find and untended. First of all, the road towards the temple is very narrow and in bad condition. Therefore, it was a hard time to find the temple. Moreover, the sign mentioning the site was even harder to find, including no parking spaces.

When entering, the keeper is the only one seen, including him being lacking the knowledge of the place and not considered a proper guide.

Coming to the actual ruins and site, they are in bad condition due to lack of money for restoration. The place was neglected, full of old shrubs and plants, some of which even grow over the historic ruins.

Second, the old city of Sidon. The most known place full of historical sites in Sidon. This historical place, now seen as a dirty place with trash floating everywhere. There were also many mopeds driving through the narrow streets and souks which are both dangerous and annoying. Including cars driving in the narrow streets, where it is not safe and proper. This shows how unsafe the city is. Even for tourists, it was not that suitable, since it mostly offered clothes, which had little tourist interest.

The Government and Municipality of Sidon have neglected preserving and taking care of the place where the city is most known for.



Temple of Echmoun

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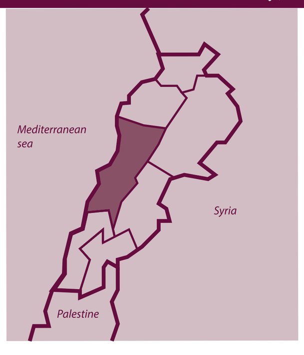
BYBLOS

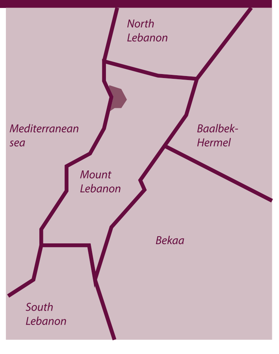
THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

بيبلوس

مسار الفينيقيين







INTRODUCTION

Jbeil (ancient Byblos) is known for its historical port that hosted the trade between Ancient Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. Byblos is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and, according to the Phoenician writer Sanchuniathon, Byblos is the first city of the Phoenicians. Today, it is a typical Middle Eastern city (with its enchanting souq and Medieval port near the Phoenician port) visited mainly for its archaeological area, accessible through a castle built in the 12th century with stone blocks retrieved from Roman buildings. It preserves the remains of the ancient Amorite city, the famous Temple of Obelisks of the Phoenician era and a Roman amphitheatre.

Byblos is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).

HISTORICAL MAPPING



The new renovated souk complements the local architecture of the city. Some more recent elevations built with old patterns (stone…) also exist. The buildings are mainly used as retail and office space.

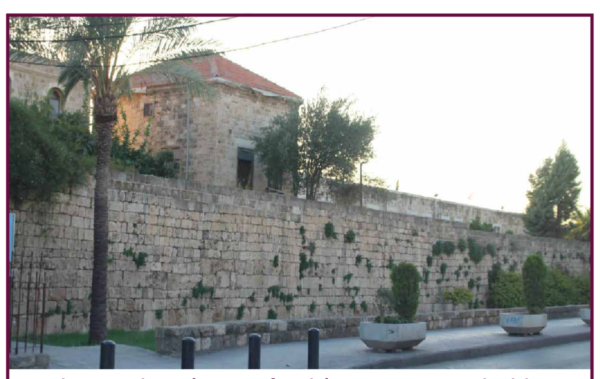
The New Souk

This site is rich in having a Roman necropolis, around 150 sarcophagus were found during the excavation. The sad fact is that this necropolis has been completely removed in order to build a mall "Le Mall".

The area where the Directorate of General Antiguities (DGA) worked and found the necropolis is around 5000 m².



Roman Necropolis



The medieval city of Byblos is surrounded by the Crusader wall, running about 270m from east to west and 200m from north to south. The north section of the wall is the best preserved. The wall was constructed by the Crusaders in the early 12th century, when the Crusader Castle was built. Since that period, the wall has been restored many times, and most parts of the visible upper structure date from the Mamluke and Ottoman period.

The Medieval Wall



Scale 1/1000

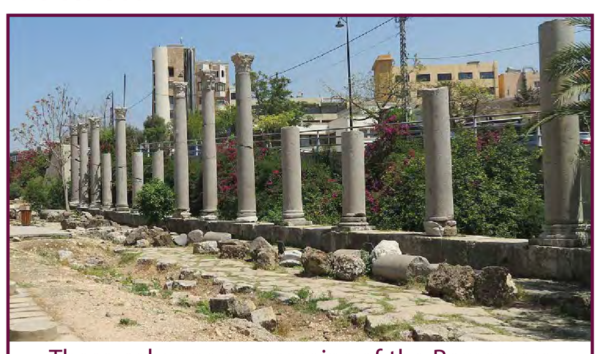
Legend

- Palaeolithic Age 1,400,000 – 24,000 B.C.
- Bronze Age 3000 – 1200 B.C.
- Phoenician Civilization (Iron Age) 1200 – 333 B.C.
- Greek - Roman Period 333 B.C. – 300 A.D.
- French Mandate 1920 - 1943 A.D.
- Crusader Period 1090 - 1099 A.D.
- Ottoman Period 1516 - 1917 A.D.
- Byzantine Period 300 – 635 A.D.
- Lebanese State 1943 - Present
- Municipal Boundaries



The Old Souk is an old marketplace, built on an old Roman road, and sell souvenirs of the city and other heritage sites of Lebanon (Baalbeck, Tyre and many more). The buildings there reflect the age of this ancient city.

The Old Souk



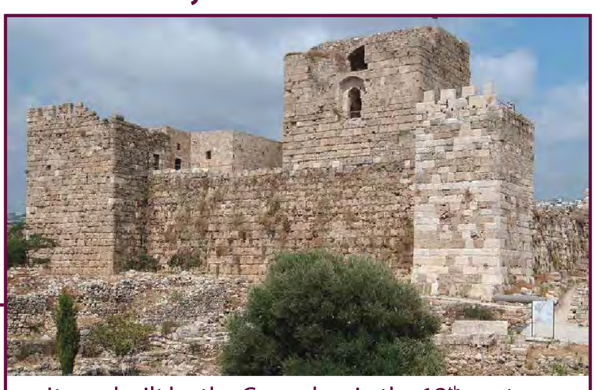
These columns are remains of the Roman era in Byblos. Perhaps 5 meters higher than the Neolithic settlements excavated around the ramparts, it shows how much had to be excavated to get to the earliest inhabitants of the city. The columns are Corinthian in style, and made of marble, with Greek style friezes. The roman colonnade is an active public space and an urban path connecting the old city to the new municipal headquarter.

The Roman Alley



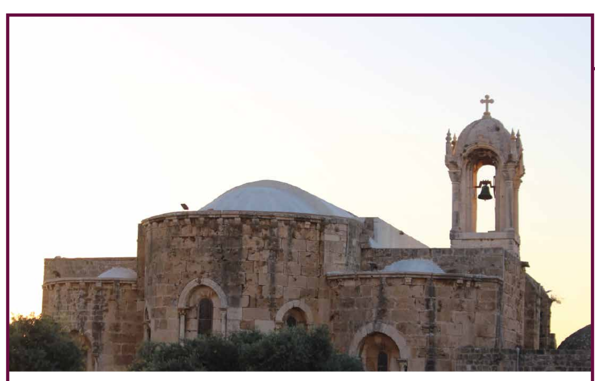
Around 3000 B.C., Byblos Port was the most important timber shipping center in the eastern Mediterranean. It was used by the Phoenicians to ship their local wine, Cedars of Lebanon and other wood to the Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt to be used in tomb construction and shipbuilding. The harbor is sheltered from the sea by a rocky headland. Nearby are the excavated remains of the ancient city, the Crusader castle and church and the old market area. Currently, it is limited to touristic and fishing activities.

The Old Port



It was built by the Crusaders in the 12th century from indigenous limestone and the remains of Roman structures. The finished structure was surrounded by a moat. It belonged to the genoese Embriaco family, whose members were the Lords of Gibelet (as Byblos/Lebanon was called during Middle Ages). Saladin captured the town and castle in 1188 and dismantled the walls in 1190. Later, the Crusaders recaptured Byblos and rebuilt the fortifications of the castle in 1197. In 1369, the castle had to fend off an attack from Cypriot vessels from Famagusta.

Byblos Castle



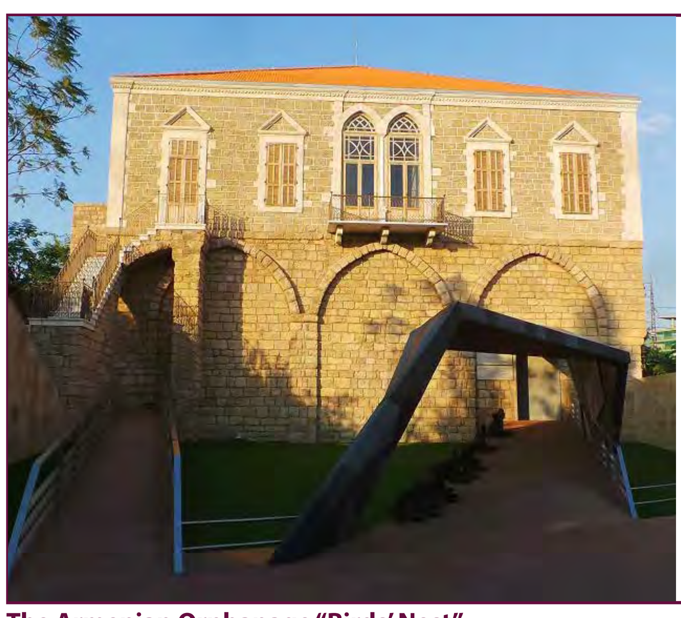
The church is dedicated to St. John Mark, the patron saint of the town, who is said to have founded the first Christian community of Byblos. The church itself was built in 1115 AD by the Crusaders, originally as the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

St. Jean-Marc Church

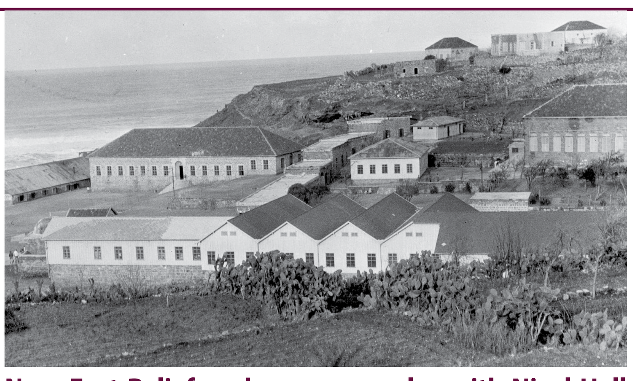


This typical Lebanese house founded in the vicinity of the Castle and the only one which was kept in place after the expulsion by the French explorers of the owners of those houses in the late twenties of the 20th century. Today, this house is being renovated to be a museum open to the public.

Al-Houssami House Within the Archaeological Site



The Armenian Orphanage "Birds' Nest"



Near East Relief orphanage complex with Nicol Hall which still stands today (1924).

The Armenian Genocide Orphans' "Aram Bezikian" Museum is a place of memory, promoting the common values and principles of humanity: concern for others, friendship and tolerance, peaceful coexistence and respect for human rights and human dignity.

The Museum features three exhibits:

- The first presents the life of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire on the eve of the First World War and the genocide perpetrated against the Armenians by the Ottoman Turkish government in 1915 and 1916.

- The second dramatizes the role of the various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and western missionaries that helped resettle the surviving orphans in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon.

- The third exhibit shows the rehabilitation and settlement of the orphans into their new home in Lebanon. A specific scene is dedicated to the story of Maria Jacobsen, the "Mama," who devoted her whole life to the thousands of orphans in the "Birds' Nest."

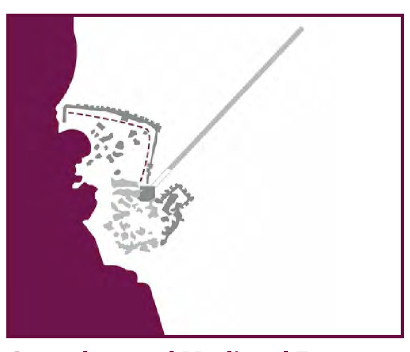
URBAN METAMORPHOSIS



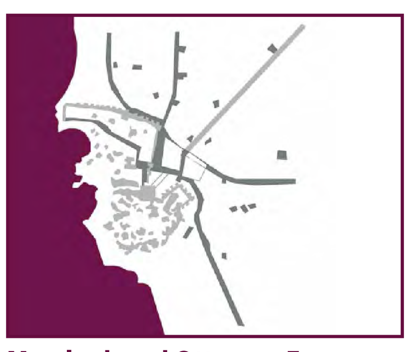
First Urban Settlement
3200 B.C.
Growth around the spring, known as Ain Al-Malak, located today inside the archaeological site.



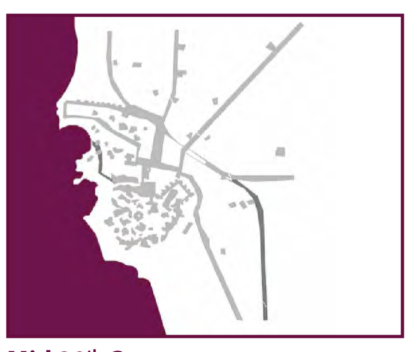
Byzantine and Roman Era
63 B.C. - 637 A.D.
Appearance of the Roman Axis with a parallel developement around the city center.



Crusaders and Medieval Era
1098 A.D. - 1289 A.D.
Growth inside the Medieval Wall and the construction of the fortress on its end located inside the archaeological site today.



Mamlouk and Ottoman Era
1289 A.D. - 1918 A.D.
Expansion of the roads outside the Medieval wall as well as souks and residential units.



Mid 20th Century
Construction of the railway cutting through the city with a dense expansion of streets creating a new urban fabric.



Present
Construction of the highway cuts through the city and divides Jbeil in two sections (old Jbeil and new Jbeil), it is a man-made barrier.

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

24,000 - 3000 B.C. - Neolithic Age
- First Phoenician settlement: A small Neolithic fishing community settled along the shore of Byblos.

3200 B.C. - Urban Settlement
- First step towards infrastructural interventions.
- Execution of the first urban plan Baalet-Gebel.

1580 B.C. - Egyptian Domination
- Appearance of the first documents written in alphabetic script.
- Discovery of a royal necropolis of this epoch of 9 tombs all rich in offerings and sculptures.

539 B.C. - Persian Period
- Jbeil covered with a dense network of construction.
- A fortress puts Jbeil in defence.
- Reconstruction of the temple of Baalt-Gebel and the rampart.
- Period of prosperity.

332 - 64 B.C. - Hellenistic Period
- The city encountered its first huge attempt of extension in the age of Romans.
- They left the hill and fortified the lower side of the city.
- Thus bringing more prosperity to the city.

64 B.C. - 635 A.D. - Roman and Byzantine Period
- New urbanization, a new urban canvas and urban footprint.
- Its suburbs extend to the foot of the mountain.
- The old temple of Rechief was reconstructed with new monumental proportions.
- Reconstruction of the theatre and colonnades.
- Vast use of sand.
- Jbeil becomes an inhabitant city.

637 A.D. - Umayyad Period
- Moawiya attached the city to Damascus.
- Trade was banned through the sea.
- Jbeil became a frontier of war between Muslims and Christians.

1516 - 1917 A.D. - Ottoman Period
- Souk Al-Khan.
- New spatial order of the city.

EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Jbeil is the only archaeological coastal site with a protected natural environment. Thanks to the implementation of the development plan No.8645 (February 1962). The old town of Jbeil, which is included in the Medieval ramparts, was restored and protected from anarchic urbanization. The natural-historic complex is surrounded to the north and south by sand dunes and threatened with destruction by development projects. It includes the archaeological settlement, overlooking a picturesque harbor, traditional Lebanese houses, gardens blooming with Mediterranean vegetation, narrow lanes and old staircases, souks and historic buildings like the mosque and the churches.

The old city houses, a medieval pedestrian staircase network, connecting the port to the rest of the city through a series of shortcuts, which are at present, frequently interrupted by fence walls or other secondary constructions. The urban grid and the commercial activity would much benefit from the reconstitution of these secondary pedestrian circuits.

Visitor experience in Jbeil an overall quite positive. The well-conserved urban environment, spectacular views of the Mediterranean Sea, good restaurants, and the fish fossil stores, all make for a unique visitor experience.



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THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE | Cultural route of the Council of Europe / Itinéraire culturel du Conseil de l'Europe

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LEBANON NETWORK OF HISTORICAL CITIES

24TH MEDITERRANEAN EXCHANGE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURISM | OCTOBER 27TH- 30TH, 2022 - PAESTUM, SALERNO, ITALY

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BYBLOS

THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

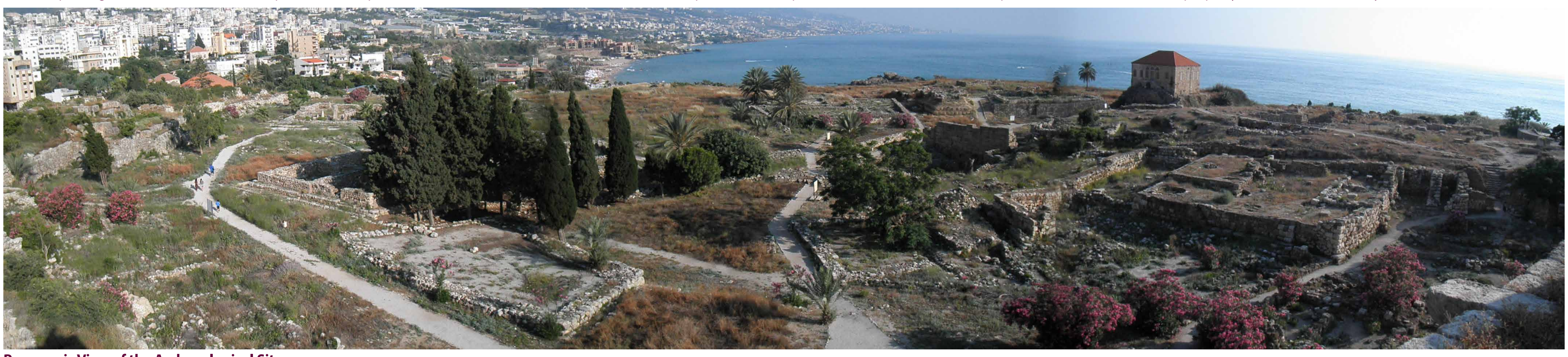
جبيل
مسار الفينيقيين

BYBLOS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

It is attractive to archaeologists because of the successive layers of debris resulting from centuries of human habitation. It was first excavated by Pierre Montet from 1921 until 1924, followed by Maurice Dunand from 1925 over a period of forty years. The site first appears to have been settled during the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B period, approximately 8800 to 7000 BC. Neolithic remains of some buildings can be observed at the site.

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

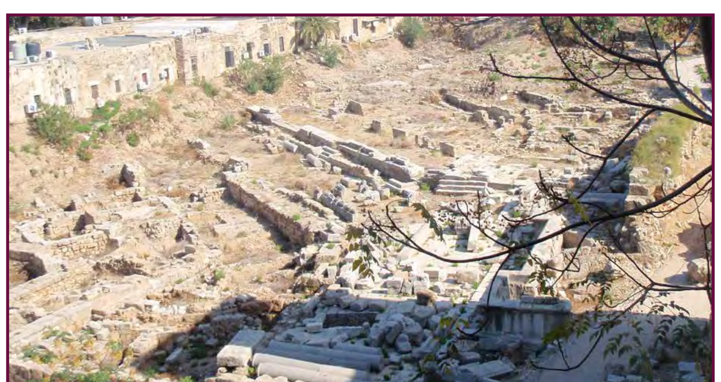
The site is protected by the Lebanese Antiquities. The conservation and management of the site of Byblos are ensured by the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA). Targeted conservation projects are underway within the property. All restoration and other permits in the intra-muros zone must be submitted for approval to the DGA. A protection and enhancement plan for the site is being prepared to ensure a better presentation of these unique ruins and to develop a new protection system for the site while respecting international charters. Cooperation with specialists in the restoration of historic monuments is primordial. The plan should coordinate all those specializations involved in the property and also treat the subject of underwater remains.



Panoramic View of the Archaeological Site

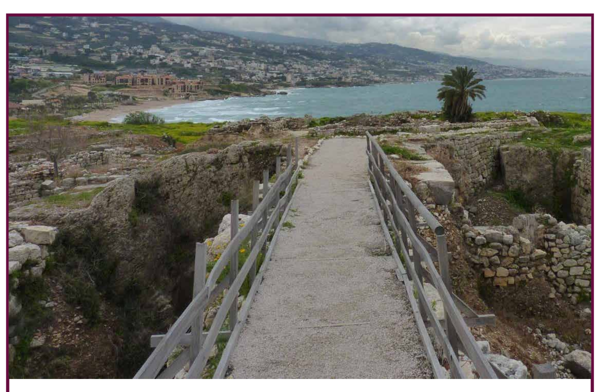


Byblos Archaeological Site Plan



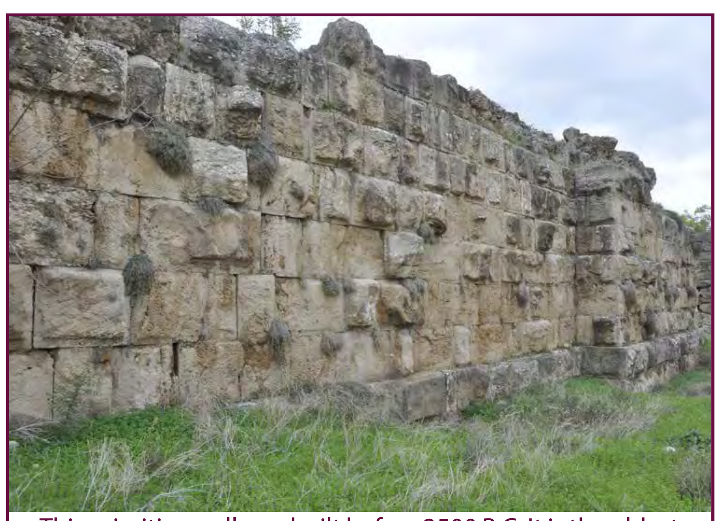
These vestiges are the remains of the Roman road that once led to the Roman era city of Byblos. Today, about 300m of the road can be seen, including some of the old paving stones and columns that once lined the road.

1 The Roman Road



The remains of a city gate dating from the Early Bronze Age (third millennium B.C.) are located on the left side of the castle. This gate appears as a wide opening between two ancient stone ramparts. Traces of fire are visible, possibly from the Amorite invasions around 2300-1900 B.C.

2 Bronze Age City Gate



This primitive wall was built before 2500 B.C. It is the oldest fortification on the site.

3 Old Fortification Wall



The structures visible today are the foundations of the socalled "L-shaped Temple," erected around 2700 B.C. A section of charred stone at the entrance of the temple's sacred court (4A) is evidence that the temple was destroyed by fire, probably at the time of the Amorite invasions around 2300- 1900 B.C. Terracotta basins set in a bench of masonry behind the entrance (4B) probably held water for ritual cleansing ceremonies.

4 Great Temple



Originally built on top of the "L-shaped temple" (4), the remains of the Temple of the Obelisks were moved by archaeologists to their present location. The temple dates from the Late Bronze Age (1600-1200 B.C.). The many small obelisks found in this temple were used as religious offerings. Altogether, over 1,306 offerings have been uncovered in this temple, including human figurines made of bronze covered with gold leaf.

5 Temple of the Obelisks



This large cavity, with large sustaining walls constructed of irregular stones, once held a water well called "Ain Al-Malik." According to the archaeologist who excavated the site, this "spring" was the main source of water for Byblos in ancient times.

6 Ain Al-Malik



7- The archaeological vestiges in this area are the remains of an enclosure and the foundations of houses dating from the Early Bronze Age, about 3200-3000 B.C.

8- Foundations of two houses, one built on top of the other. The lower one is from the Chalcolithic period (4500- 3500 B.C.). The upper one is from the Early Bronze Age, 3200-3000 B.C.

9- Remains of a large Early Bronze Age residence (third millennium B.C.). In the structure's rooms you can see three rows of five stone pillar bases, which once held the wooden pillars used to support the structure.

10- Early Bronze Age building foundations, third millennium B.C.

11- Early Bronze Age house foundations, dating from the period of the Amorite conquest 2150-2000 B.C.

7 till 11 Houses





Settlements dating back to the Stone Age (5th and 4th millennia B.C.) are the remains of several mono-cellular huts with crushed limestone floors. They are situated in the area between the Early Bronze Age residence (9) and the seashore. Archaeologists have found cultic installations or temples in two of the structures: the first one (14), with an apsidal or semi-circular shape, is located at the northern edge of this area, and the second one (15) is located southeast of the first one.

12 till 15 Neolithic and Chalcolithic



This large excavation in the rocks, located behind the Baalat Gebal temple (18), dates from the period of the Amorite invasions (2300-1900 B.C.). The stones extracted from this quarry were used to construct buildings in the Byblos area.

16 Amorite Quarry



This Early Bronze Age house is located near the quarry (16). Most of its walls are preserved, with more than three courses of stones remaining today. Its seaside façade has especially well-built, thick walls.

17 Bronze Age House



Today, the visitor can only see the foundations of the Temple of Baalat Gebal (2700 B.C.). This temple was dedicated to the "Lady of Byblos," the patron goddess of the city for over two millennia during the Canaanite/Phoenician era. Constructed when Byblos had close ties with Egypt, this large and important temple was rebuilt a number of times. It remained in use until the Roman period, when it was replaced by a Roman-style structure, which was dismantled during the excavations of the site in the early 20th century.

18 Temple of Baalat Gebal



The Roman theater, which has only five tiers remaining, was built around 218 A.D. It was moved from its original site between the city gate (2) and the Great Temple (4) to its present location near the seaside. The black pebbles in the center of the theater mark the location of a mosaic that has been preserved in the National Museum of Beirut.

19 Reconstructed Roman Theater



Sarcophagus of the Amorite king Abi Chemu (contemporary with the 12th Egyptian dynasty, 1990 - 1880 B.C.)



Roman Sarcophagus

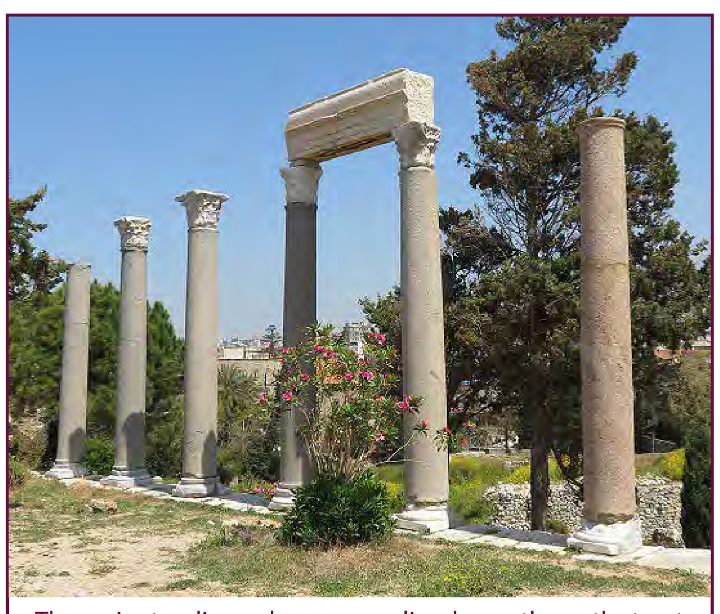
The site of the necropolis dates to the second millennium B.C. and contains nine underground tombs of the Byblos kings. The most important tomb is that of King Ahiram (10th century B.C.), whose sarcophagus bears one the earliest known inscriptions of the Phoenician alphabet. This sarcophagus is now located in the National Museum of Beirut. The tomb of King Ahiram was located on the west slope facing the sea, but it was completely destroyed by a collapse in 1922, which revealed Ahiram's sarcophagus.

20 till 28 Royal Tombs



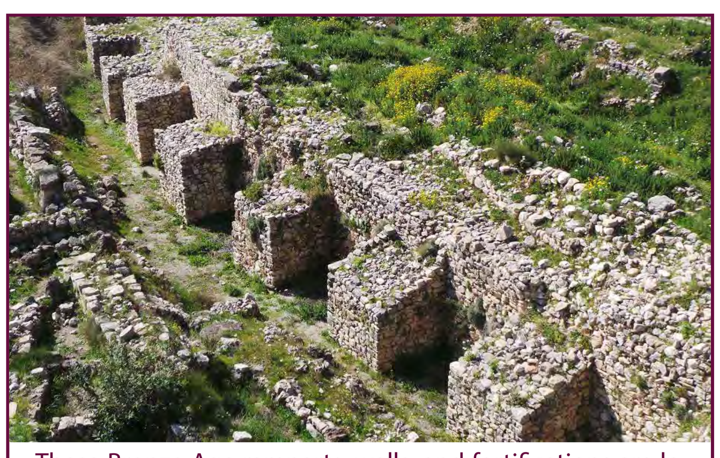
At this site are the remains of a residential quarter dating to the Bronze Age. The foundations of several houses can be seen, giving the visitor a sense of the general layout of a residential area during this period.

29 Bronze Age Residential Quarter



These six standing columns once lined a north-south street, built by the Romans in 300 A.D., which led to the Temple of Baalat-Gebal.

30 Roman Colonnade



These Bronze Age ramparts, walls, and fortifications are located inside the modern wall on the right side of the Castle entrance. The structures show successive stages of construction and restoration. The indented wall (31) belongs to the fortifications built in the Early Bronze Age (third millennium B.C.), while the terraced slopes or glacis made of large blocks (32) date from the end of the Middle Bronze Age (1725- 1580 B.C).

31 till 32 Bronze Age City Fortification



Located to the left of the Castle entrance are the foundations of a Roman-era nympheum. The nympheum was once decorated with fountains and a niche filled with statues. The roads coming into the city from the north converged in the area in front of the nymphaeum.

33 Roman Nympheum



The site of the Crusader Castle was originally occupied by an earlier fortification dating from the Fatimid period (969 -1169 A.D.). In the beginning of the 12th century A.D., the Crusaders built a strong fortress, reusing Roman stonework from the site and cutting new stones to match the old ones. The castle consisted of a courtyard, an enclosure with four towers at each corner of the building, and a fifth tower in the middle of the north wall to defend the entrance. The whole castle was originally surrounded by a moat. In Mamluke and Ottoman times, the castle was reused and some parts of it were restored. Climbing to the top of the castle offers an excellent vantage point for taking in a panoramic view of the ruins and the Mediterranean Sea.

34 The Crusader Castle



This complex dates from the Persian period (555- 333 B.C.). It is believed to be a castle because of its large masonry walls and the military and defensive aspects of its architecture. The remains are located outside the Early Bronze Age city walls, and today visitors can see foundations of the castle walls and square-shaped towers. The fact that a fortress was constructed here during this period shows that Byblos was a strategic part of the Persian defense system in the eastern Mediterranean.

35 Persian Castle

LEBANON NETWORK OF HISTORICAL CITIES

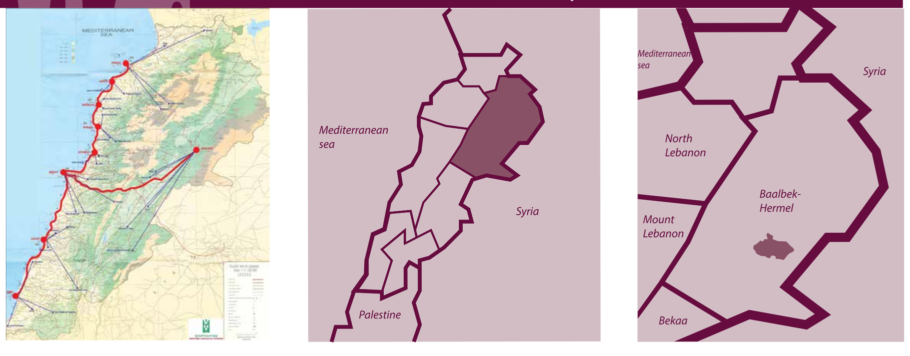
24TH MEDITERRANEAN EXCHANGE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURISM | OCTOBER 27TH- 30TH, 2022 - PAESTUM, SALERNO, ITALY

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BAALBEK

THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

بعلبك
مسار الفينيقيين



INTRODUCTION

Founded by the Phoenicians, Baalbek was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it *"Heliopolis"* meaning *"Always the City of the Sun"* for assimilation between the Sun god and the Phoenician divinity Baal. It later became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today, three main buildings still remain:

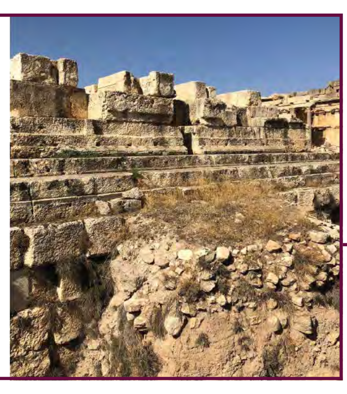
- The Temple of Jupiter
- The Temple of Bacchus
- The circular Temple of Venus.

A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury, is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. In July and August, the International Baalbek Festival hosts leading international, regional, local performers and musicians.

Baalbek is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).

HISTORICAL MAPPING

Under the Roman Temples in Al-Qalaa', excavations have recently shown the existence of ruins that date back to the Phoenicians. It is believed that these ruins used to be the Temple of Baal.



Phoenician Ruins



This temple is known from the coins of the Roman emperor Philip the Arab (r.244-249). It has been identified at Sheikh Abdallah Hill, not far from the barracks of the Lebanese army, but only a flight of stairs survives. The temple itself must have been a bit more to the south-west, on the summit of the hill.

The Temple of Mercury



To the right is a scale model of a theater, believed to have stood in Baalbek since the Roman Period. This model is found in the National Museum of Beirut. The remains of this theater have been identified under the Palmyra Hotel. Excavations made by the German mission in 1898 ended up by closing the door and the vaulted entrance that were found since houses were built above them.

An Old Theater, Now Palmyra Hotel



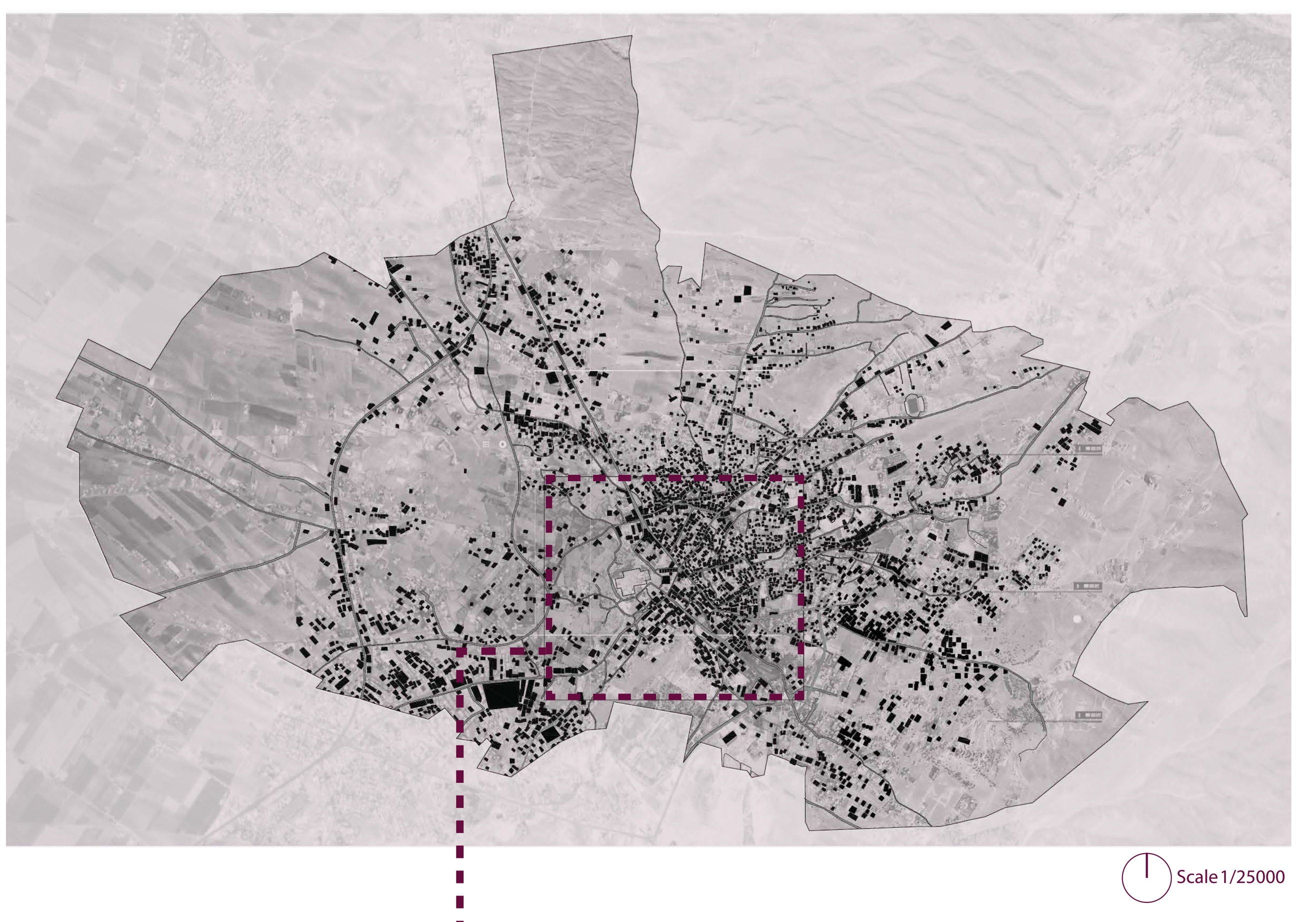
In a quarry to the west of the ancient city of Baalbek lies a monolith with a height of 20 meters and width of 4.5 meters, to be one of the largest stones ever cut by man. This monolith is named *"Hajar Al-Hibla"* or *"Stone of the Pregnant Women"*. Another monolith has been found next to it but not fully excavated yet and is probably larger.

Stone of the Pregnant Women

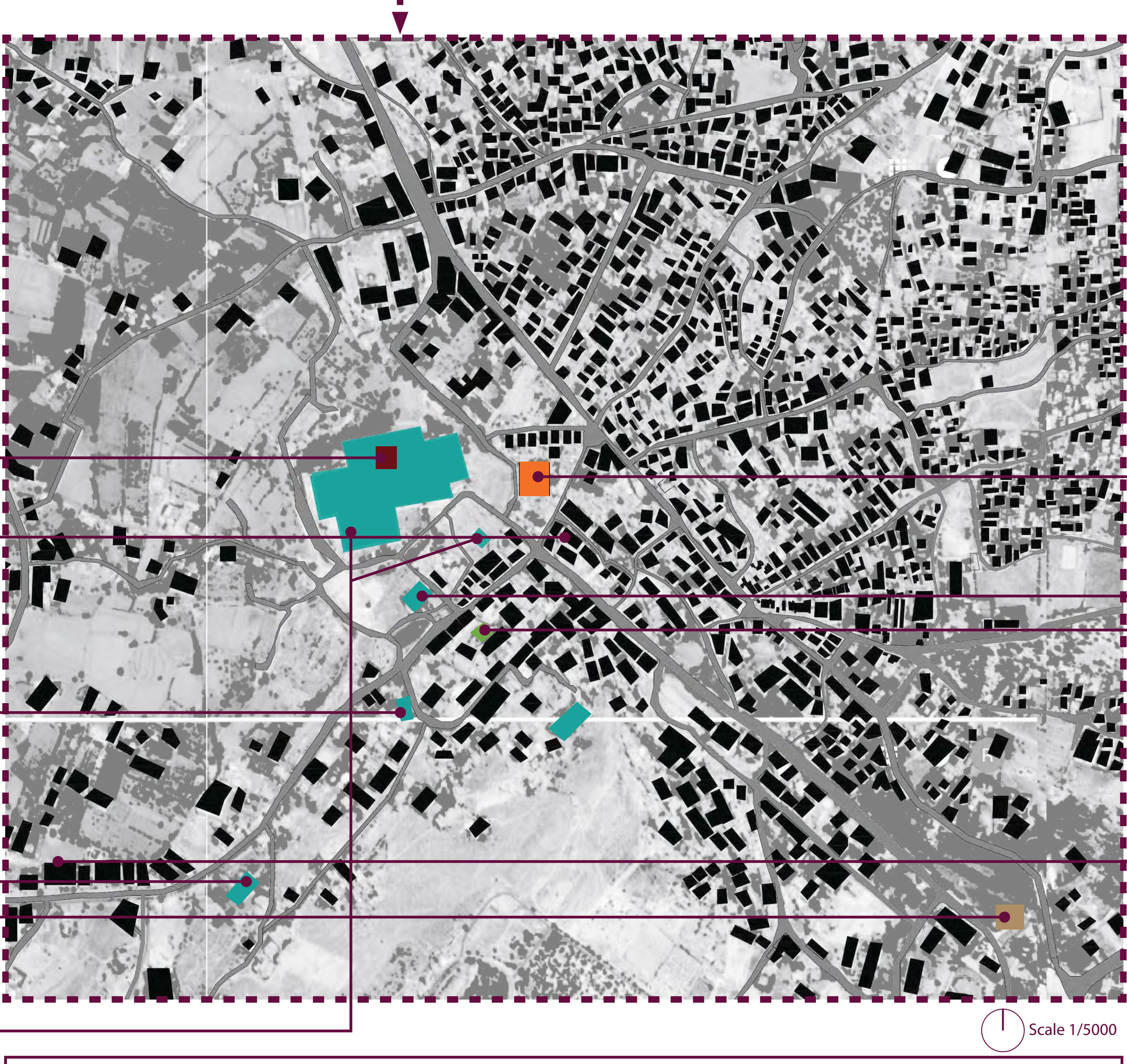


It is a mosque built in the Mameluke Period. This mosque was built in honour of Imam Hussein, grandson of Prophet Mohammad.

Ras Al-Imam Al-Hussein Mosque



Scale 1/25000



Scale 1/5000

Legend

- Phoenician Civilization (Iron Age) 1200 – 333 B.C.
- Greek - Roman Period 333 B.C. – 300 A.D.
- Byzantine Period 300 – 635 A.D.
- Islamic Period 635 – 969 A.D.
- Mameluke Period 1290 – 1515 A.D.
- Crusader Period 1090 - 1099 A.D.



Located in front of the entrance to the Roman archaeological site, the 7th or 8th century Umayyad mosque was built on the site of the Roman forum, turned into the St. John Byzantine Church in the fourth - fifth century, and incorporates granite and limestone columns taken from the site. It was restored in the 1990's.

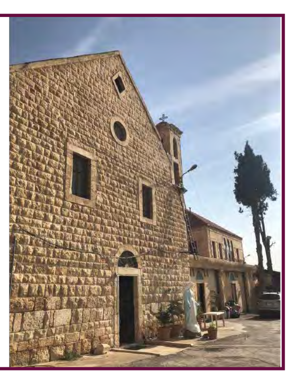
The Great Umayyad Mosque



Bustan Al-Khan is a Roman bath in an area in the south-western part of the ancient city, presumably built in late second century A.D. Because of the exposed position at the main entrance of the city and the location nearby the sanctuary of Jupiter, the building composition of the public bath and the huge banquet hall holds a special position in the urban structure of the antique city. It covers a space of nearly 10.000 m².

Bustan Al-Khan

It is the Greek Melkite Catholic Archbishop of Baalbek, built in the Byzantine Period.

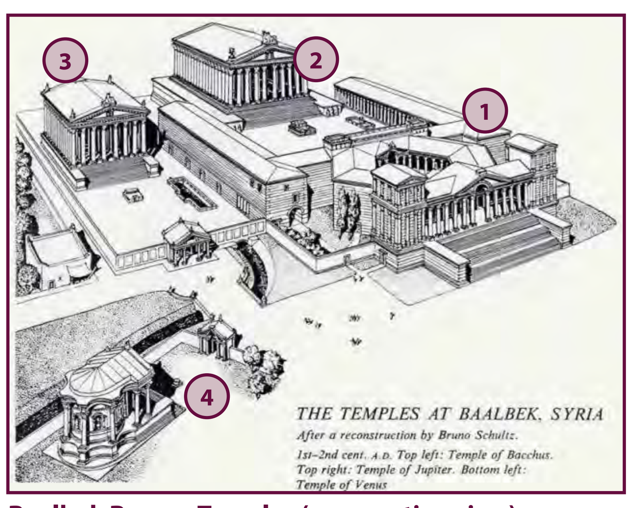


St. Barbara Cathedral



This shrine most likely dates to the Ayyubid Period. It had a dome above the eight columns of red granite. It is located on the left of the city's southern entrance, in an area full of buildings today, after having been in the past a great cemetery.

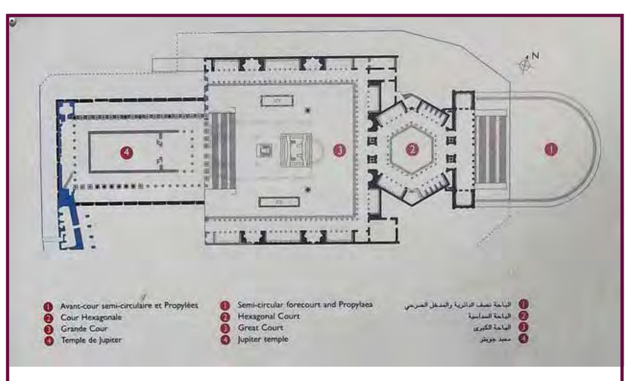
Qubbat Douris



Baalbek Roman Temples (perspective view)

The Hexagonal Forecourt is a six-sided area built between the Propylaea and the Great Court in the early third century A.D. It incorporated 30 granite columns. By the early fifth century, it had been covered with a dome and transformed into a church.

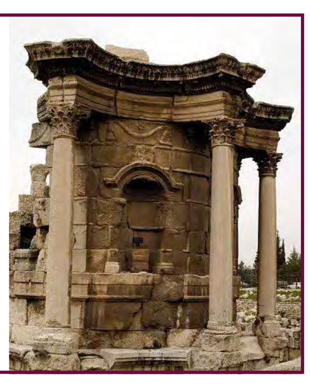
(1) **The Hexagonal Forecourt**



The Temple of Jupiter (15 - 55 A.D.) is the greatest temple of Baalbek. It was dedicated to a god who was, at various periods in history, called Ba'al, Hadad, Helios, Zeus, or Jupiter. Rising above a wide flight of stairs, the shrine of the temple of Jupiter in Baalbek was the largest sanctuary in the Roman world, but little survives, except for six Corinthian columns on the south side, which are still carrying their entablature.

(2) **The Temple of Jupiter**

The Temple of Venus built in the early third century A.D. is small and round. It has six columns that probably once supported a dome. It is carved everywhere with niches, sculptures (now lost) and other elegant decorations.



(4) **The Temple of Venus**



The Temple of Bacchus (60 - 150 A.D.) is the best conserved structure. Its interior space is 62 feet and a monumental gateway 21 feet wide and nearly 42 feet high. Some figurative reliefs depicting Greek gods have survived, though in a very damaged state. Yet, despite its clear importance, very little is known about the purpose of the impressive building. It is larger than the Parthenon in Athens.

(3) **The Temple of Bacchus**

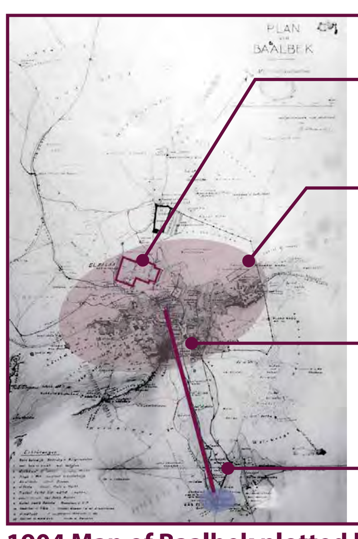
A homage to Jupiter, Venus and Bacchus, the archaeological site in Baalbek is the largest and most impressive Roman temple complex in the world. Amazing in its size, decoration and height, it received UNESCO heritage site status in 1984.

In the fourth century, Christians turned areas of this pagan site into churches, after which the Arabs turned them back into temples in 634.

As protection against the Crusaders, the temple complex was fortified in the 12th century. From then on, it suffered from earthquakes, conquests, looting and general destruction and the site was left almost unnoticed until its re-discovery in 1751. Restoration of the complex began in 1898 by the German Archaeological Mission.

Baalbek Roman Temples

CLOSE UP OF THE HISTORICAL MAPS



El-Kalaa or The Roman Temples.

The Ancient city.

Ras El-Ain Road, the main commercial street that developed to link the historical city to the main water source.

Ras El-Ain, One of the two main water springs in Baalbek.

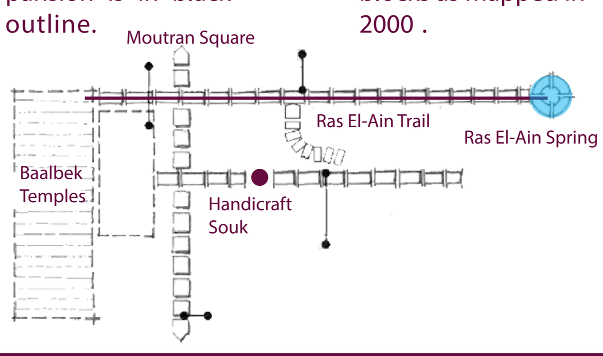
1904 Map of Baalbek plotted by Engineer G. Shumacher.



Overlay of 1964 expansion is in black outline.



Overlay of building blocks as mapped in 2000 .



CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

3000 - 6000 B.C. - First Settlement
Towards the end stone age.

1200 - 333 B.C. - Phoenician and Canaanite Period
- Baalbek known to be a Canaanite city.
- Phoenician build the temple of Baal, the Sun god. Baalbek becomes a religious center.

2300 - 3000 B.C. - Presence of Old Temples
Colored pottery, stone and metal weapons, volcanic glass pieces and 3 skeletons: Bronze accessories, Axe, purple pearls during the Hexose era (1580 - 1730 B.C.).

550 - 333 B.C. - Persian Period
Pottery with images and cuneiform texts.

333 - 323 B.C. - Baalbek conquered by Alexander the Great
He renames the city *"Heliopolis"*.

331 B.C. - Baalbek remained an Off-Visited Pilgrimage Site
It remained as such until the legitimization of Christianity in the Roman Empire by Constantine the Great at 313 B.C.

202 - 195 B.C. - After the Fifth Syrian War
Beqaa Valley became part of the Seleucid Empire.

198 - 82 B.C. - Heliopolis Became a Subject to the Rule of Baltimus Manius

64 B.C. - 635 A.D. - Roman and Byzantine Period
14 B.C. till 200 A.D., building of the Roman temples in Baalbek.

636 - 696 A.D. - Islamic Period

Late 11th Century A.D. - Baalbek as a Seljuk Base

1158 - 1203 - 1664 - 1759 A.D. - Earthquakes
Damaged or destroyed many of the temples and structures of Baalbek.

1291- 1516 A.D. - Mameluke Period
The Mamelukes rebuilt the temples after being destroyed by earthquakes and the Mongols.

1516 - 1917 A.D. - Ottoman Period
Baalbek was under the Ottoman rule.

1920 - 1943 A.D. - French Mandate

EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Baalbek is a very rich city with archaeological sites. The scale and grandiose of its temples which gives the impression from the first visit should be enough to make Baalbek one of the most important archaeological tourism destinations in the region. However, these sites are not given the attention they deserve.

On a larger city scale, there is an absence of a general touristic plan that would encourage tourists to visit the city.

Although the CHUD (Cultural Heritage and Urban Development) Project initiated by the Council for Development and Reconstruction since 2004 targeted the development of the ancient city of Baalbek, it still faces problems and counter decisions from the municipality and the citizens mainly when aiming at creating a car-free ancient city. As told by the stakeholders, there is a complete disregard to any new archaeological discoveries, the old theater mentioned above is an example. Whenever new findings are discovered by chance, excavation stops, and the findings are covered and neglected.

Insufficient advertisement is another major issue that minimizes the importance of Baalbek temples.



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24TH MEDITERRANEAN EXCHANGE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURISM | OCTOBER 27TH- 30TH, 2022 - PAESTUM, SALERNO, ITALY

وزارة السياحة اللبنانية
MINISTÈRE LIBANAIS DU TOURISME
LEBANESE MINISTRY OF TOURISM

TRIPOLI

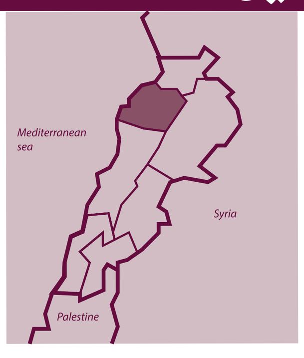
THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

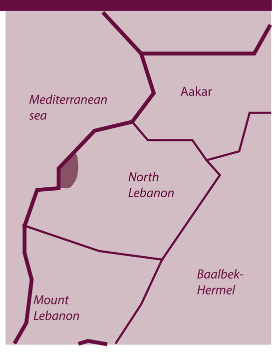
طرابلس
مسار الفينيقيين

INTRODUCTION

Tripoli, founded by the Phoenicians around 8000 B.C., is today the second largest city and main port in Lebanon. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanites/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyad, Abbasid, Crusaders, Ayyubid, Mamelukes, Ottoman and French. Facing the shores of the city, there are the Palm Islands, which known for its green turtles, and which was declared a Protected Nature Reserve by the UNESCO in 1992.

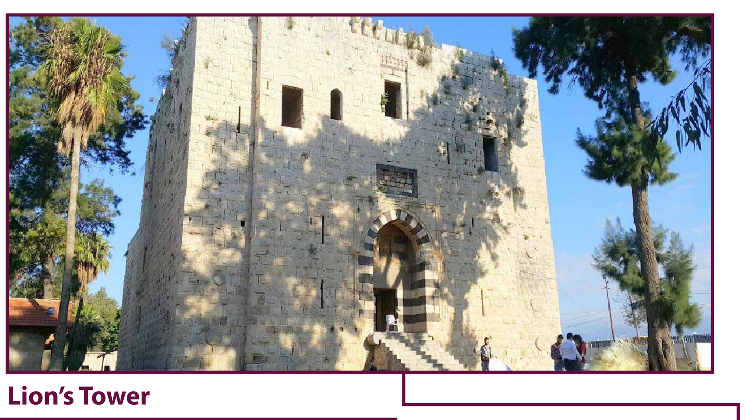




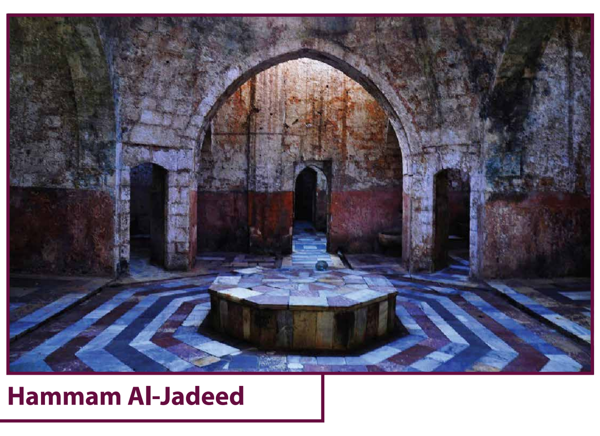


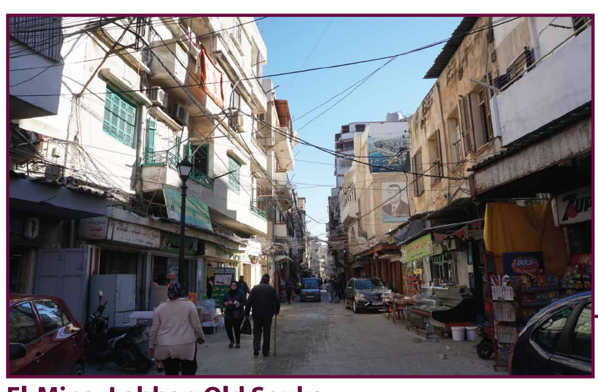
HISTORICAL MAPPING


El-Mina, Khan Al-Tamasili

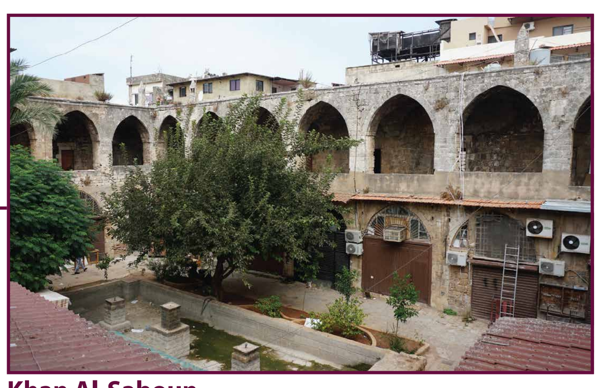

Lion's Tower

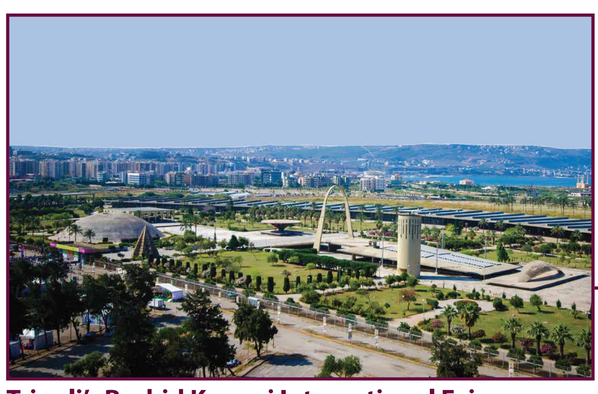

Souk Al-Haraj

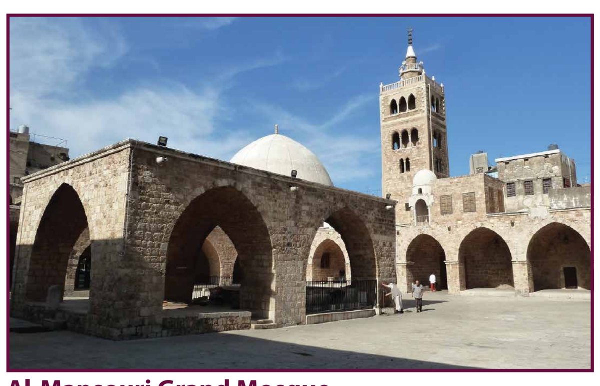

Hammam Al-Jadeed

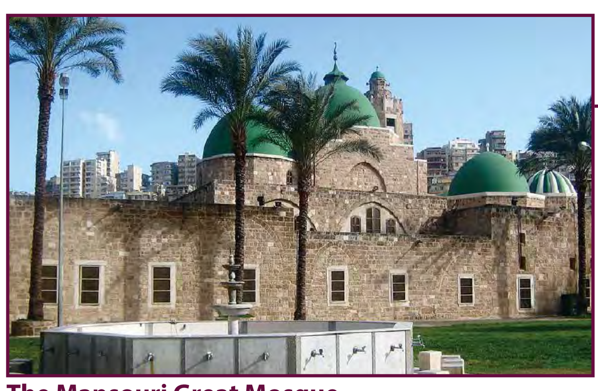

El-Mina, Labban Old Souks

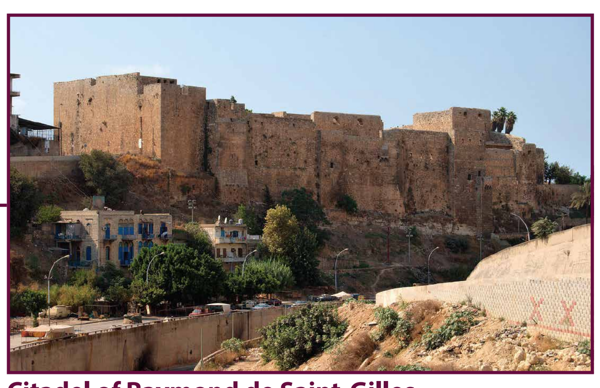

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Khan Al-Saboun

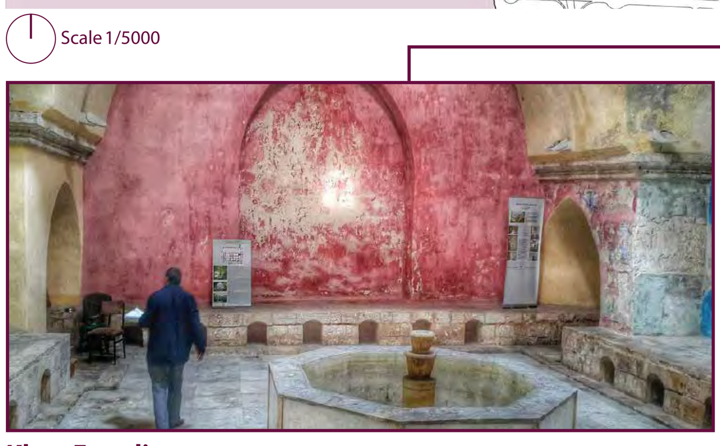

Tripoli's Rashid Karami International Fair


Al-Mansouri Grand Mosque

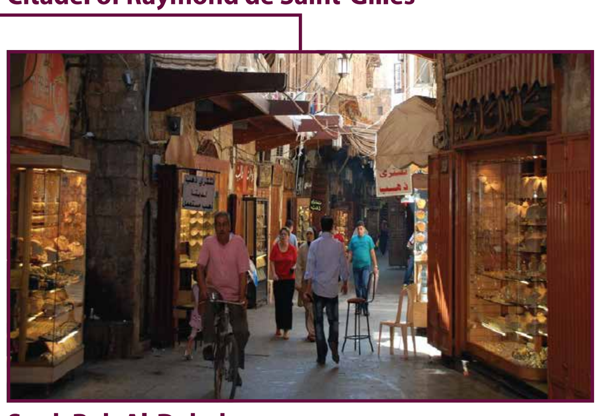

The Mansouri Great Mosque


Citadel of Raymond de Saint-Gilles


Tell Clocktower


Khan Ezzedine

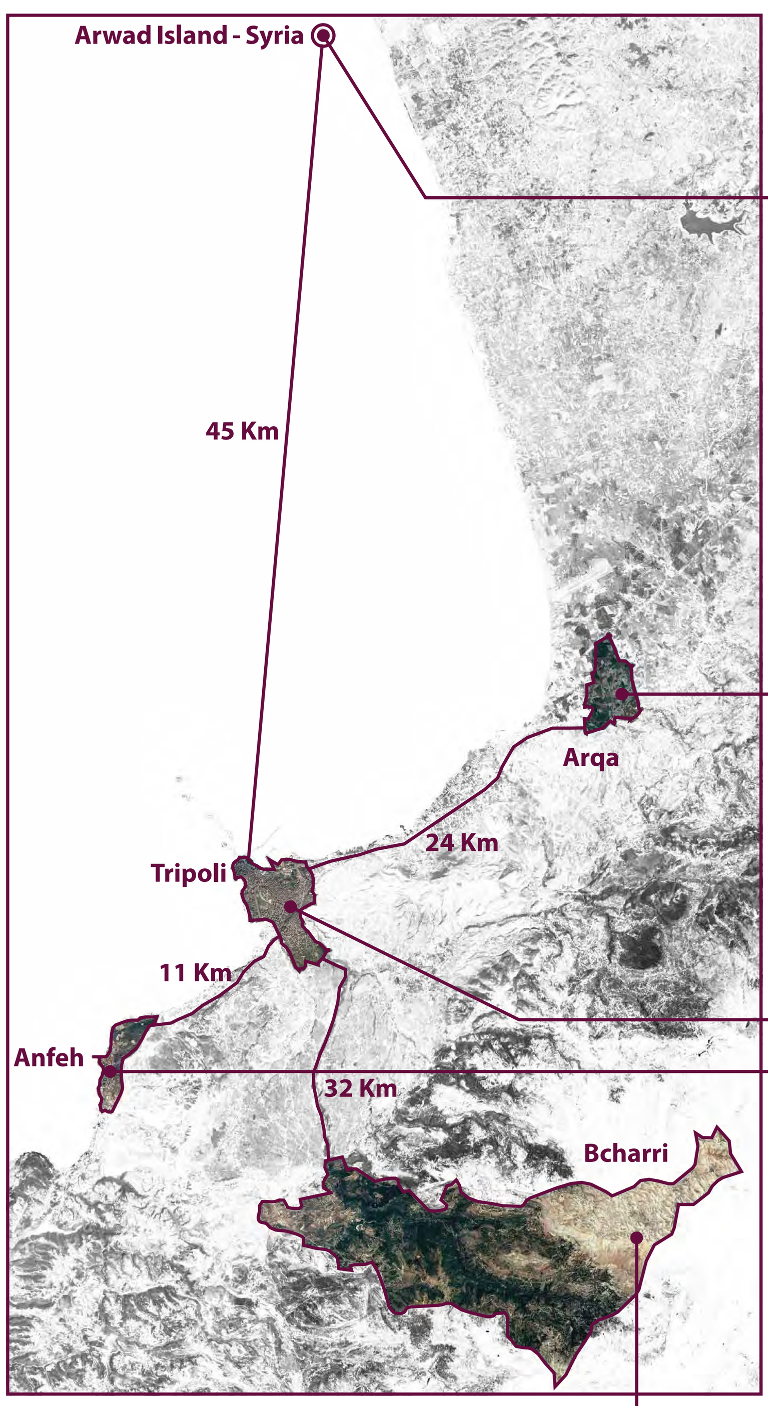

Khan Al-Khayatin

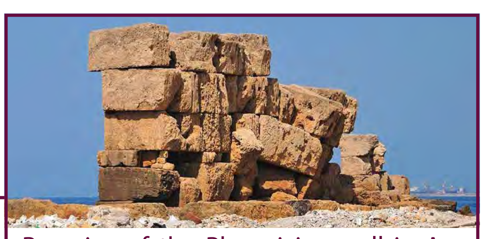

Souk Bab Al-Dahab

Legend

- Crusader Period 1090 - 1099 A.D.
- Mameluke Period 1290 – 1516 A.D.
- Ottoman Period 1516 - 1919 A.D.
- French Mandate 1920 - 1943 A.D.
- Lebanese State 1943 - Present

PHOENICIAN CONNECTION BETWEEN TRIPOLI-ARQA-BCHARRI-ANFEH AND ARWAD ISLAND (SYRIA)

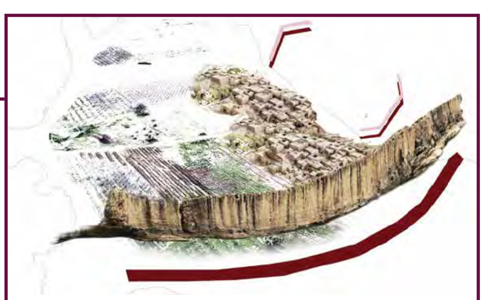



Remains of the Phoenician wall in Arwad, Syria. Ships built in Tripoli were sent to Arwad to arm Phoenician's living on the Island.

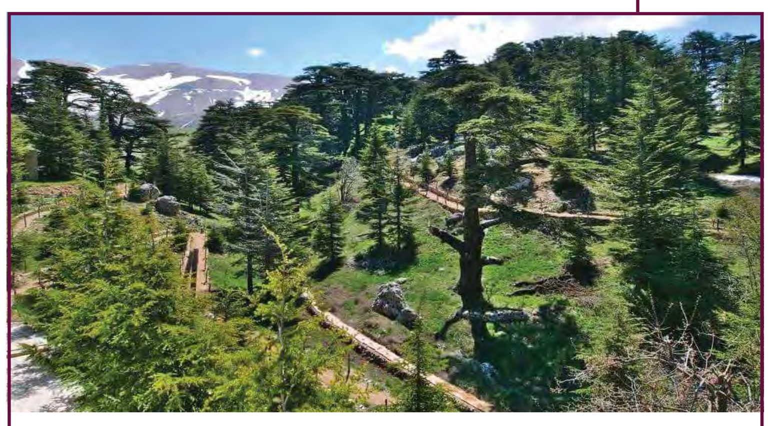
Remains of the Phoenician Wall


The only Phoenician remaining in Arqa are stairs from a Phoenician castle. The background of the picture shows the agricultural fields, dominating the landscape of Arqa. Known for its agriculture at the time, products were sent to Tripoli's port and exported to Cyprus.

Phoenician Remains in Arqa


Photomontage of Tripoli during the Phoenician settlement. Representation of the Phoenician wall, north and south port, agricultural land and residential area. No remains dating from that period are present in Tripoli.

Photomontage of Tripoli during the Phoenician settlement


Bcharri used to be the source of cedar wood that was used for trading and for ship construction. It is one of the reasons of deforestation of the mountains of Lebanon, the periodic mass cutting of timber for naval needs. Cedar wood was highly demanded since it is not a subject to decay. Egyptians also used wood products such as cedar oil for mummification.

Bcharri


The Phoenician castle in Anfeh, one of the remains of that period. Tripoli was the fair Phoenician ground for conflict resolution. At this time the city states of Aradus, Sidon, and Tyre were united by federal bonds. A neutral parliament council was held on neutral ground in the Phoenician port city of Tripoli.

Anfeh and Tripoli

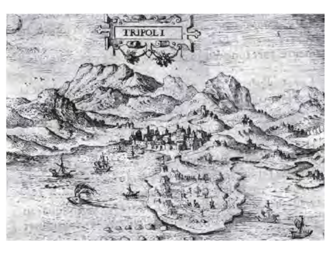
CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS




332 - 64 B.C. - Hellenistic Period & 64 B.C. - 635 A.D. - Roman and Byzantine Period

Al-Mina which originally consisted of the population travelling from Arwad, Sidon and Tyre in the first Millennium B.C. But later, and up until the fourth century A.D., Hellenistic and Roman settlements occurred in the area next to today's harbor. After that, no Byzantine or early Islamic remains were found.

1200 - 333 B.C. - Phoenician and Canaanite Period



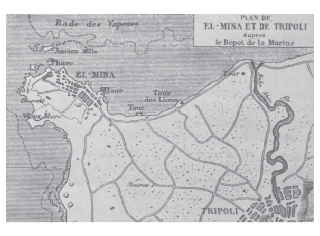


661 - 750 A.D. - Umayyad Period

1090 - 1099 A.D. - Crusader Period

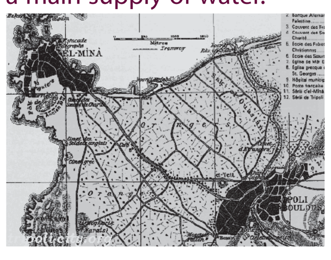
Established the political centrality of the city where certain remains are found as an extension to St. Gilles Citadel that acted as the old core of Tripoli.





1291- 1516 A.D. - Mameluke Period

The Mamelukes set the Crusader's city to the ground after burning everything but keeping the St. Gilles Citadel and the Cathedral, today known as *"Taynal Mosque",* as well as some towers around the peninsula. The Mamelukes built a whole new city at the Citadel's foot and next to Abou Ali River where Tripoli has seen a big economic and political growth of power. The urban fabric of the city at the time consisted of Gates or *"Bawabat",* each defining its special territory and had an economic status like *"Bab Al-Tabbana", "Bab Al-Hadid", "Bab Al- Ramel..."* and these names still exist until recent time. The population grew next to the citadel as a sort of protection from external conquers as well as the presence of the river as a main supply of water.





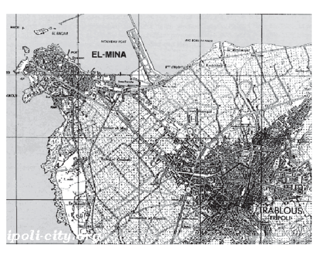
1516 - 1917 A.D. - Ottoman Period

Tripoli became one of three main governorates or *"Wilayat"*; Aleppo to the north, Damascus to the south and Tripoli. Here, Tripoli became the maritime façade of Syria from Latakia in the north to Maameltein near Jounieh as well as internal cities of Homs and Hama. But shifting in political power in 1669 towards the southern, what was called Bilad Al-Sham, signalled the beginning of long process of decline even though the city continued to grow but at a slower pace. And in 1888, the Wilaya of Beirut was established where Tripoli was then included as a secondary center. From the Ottoman rule; schools, mosques, baths, khans still exist in a common area with the Mamelukes' remains in today's old city of Tripoli. And within of what is known actually as the Old Tripoli, Old Ottoman architecture we were talking about, as well as new Ottoman architecture at the *"Al-Tal"* area is still found within today's defined as the historical city.

1920 - 1943 A.D. - French Mandate

After the Ottoman, and due to the formation of what was known as *"Lubnan Al-Kabir"* during the French Mandate, Tripoli was excluded from Syria. This lead to further deterioration of the economic and political status of the city were since the Ottomans no important accomplishments were done in the city, in other words, the city was neglected but things went okay up until the Lebanese Civil War where the city, as part of whole Lebanon, deteriorated socially and economically. But, as a radial sort of urban layering of successive rules and extensions, today the French architecture extends from *"Al-Tal"* area towards the south-west of the city, inventing today's known as *"Azmi Street"* which later became a main connection between the old and the Mina city, where today the new city of Tripoli grew in between.





EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

During the Phoenician period there was an important city called *"Tripolis"*, whose name is appropriate to its nature, for there are in it three cities, at a distance of a state from one another, and the names by which these are called are the city of the Aradians, of the Sidonians and of the Tyrians. This city enjoyed the highest repute amongst the cities of Phoenicia for there, as it happens, the Phoenicians held their common council and deliberated on matters of supreme importance.

The archaeological findings dating back to the Phoenician settlements were sold to museums in Germany, Turkey, Italy and France by the governors without the consent of the citizens. People in Tripoli were kept unknowledgeable about their city's history. Citizens of Tripoli are unaware of the Phoenician civilization. Phoenicians shaped Tripoli today, they built Tripoli, a port known for its commercial activity for trading ships and cedars wood from Bcharri. The wall built by the Phoenicians at the time has no remains today and people are unaware of its existence. No remains from the Phoenicians period exist in the city, the typologies of Crusaders and Mamelukes such as mosques and hammams dominate the historical sites. Remains found were sold and now displayed in museums in Turkey and Germany.

Even the remaining mosques, hammams, khans and madrasas from the Ottoman and Crusader periods are only preserved by the citizens of Tripoli since they represent their religion. After the flood of Abu Ali river, the historical sites of Tripoli became endangered, leaving the city at risk of losing its cultural heritage. However, till today, no funds were set by the government to keep those monuments standing.



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ANJAR

عنجر

THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

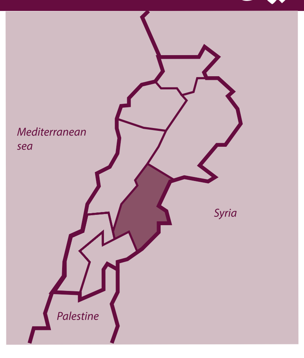
مسار الفينيقيين

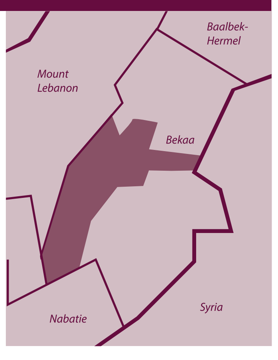
INTRODUCTION

Located 58 Km east of Beirut, Anjar, a World Heritage Site, is the Umayyad city in Lebanon. It was constructed in the first half of the 8th century, along with many palatial cities that the Umayyads constructed in various places in Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon. The city plan is well preserved, and it attests to the clear Roman and Byzantine influence on Islamic city planning. Located in the imposing plain of the Beqaa, the modern village of Anjar is imbued with simplicity, a certain languor and an authentic rural tranquillity. Anjar was founded by Caliph Walid Ibn ‘Abd Al-Malik around 705 A.D., although according to some other sources, the construction of the city is attributed to his son, Ibrahim.

In 1939, the village was inhabited by the Armenian families of Moussa Dagh, who fled the atrocities of the Turkish occupation and gave their neighbourhoods the names of their villages of origin. Beyond this remarkable Armenian presence in the region.
Listed by UNESCO as World Heritage of Humanity, this city is a unique testimony to the urbanism of the Umayyad civilization and is the only remnant of this era in Lebanon.







HISTORICAL MAPPING



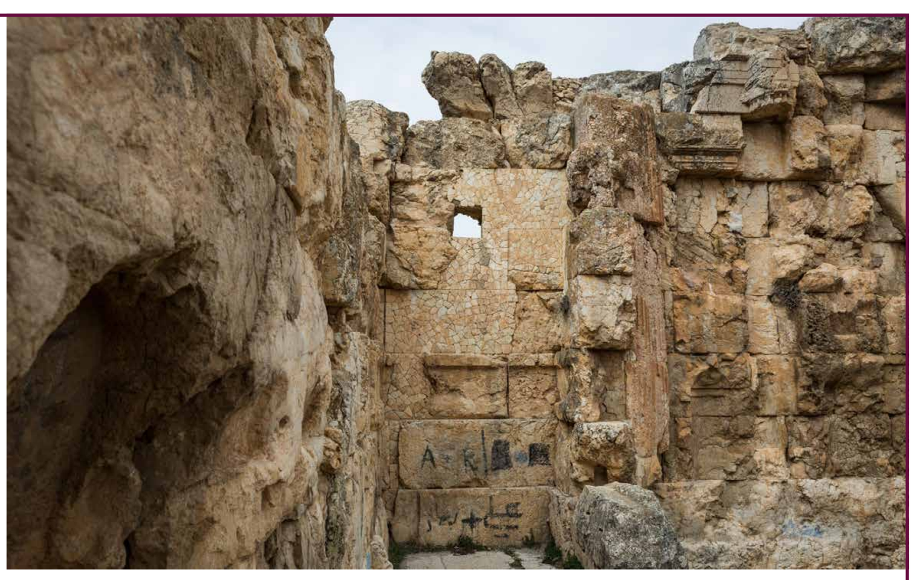
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Legend

Phoenician - Greek - Roman - Byzantine - Umayyad Period 333 B.C. – 700 A.D.







On the top of the hill, in the village Majdal Aanjar, lay the remains of a Roman Period temple including the altar walls and the surrounding site, the remains of columns and their scattered capitals. In the 7th and 8th centuries, the site was transformed into a castle.

Qalaat El-Hosn





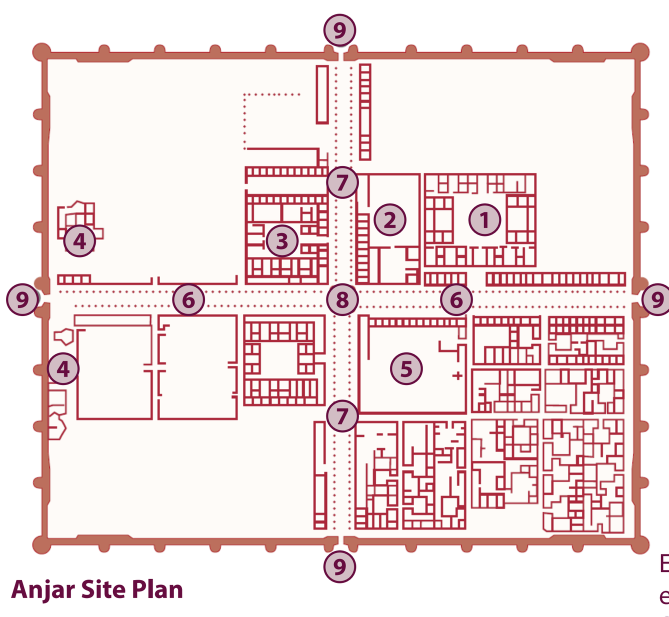






Ruins of the Umayyad City of Anjar

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS OF THE UMAYYAD CITY



Anjar Site Plan

1. **Palace**
2. **Mosque**
3. **Second Palace**
4. **Public Baths and Mosque**
5. **Residencial Area**
6. **Kardus Maximus**
7. **Decumanus Maximus**
8. **Tetrastyle**
9. **Fortifications**

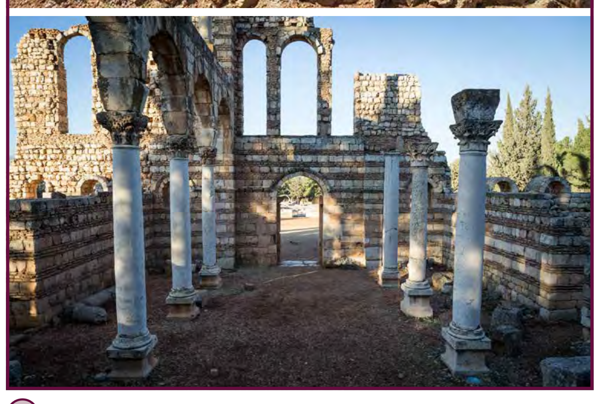
Excavations revealed a fortified city (385 x 350 m) surrounded by walls and flanked by forty towers. Dominated by gates flanked by porticos, an important north-south axis and a lesser east-west axis, superposed above the main collectors for sewers, divide the city into four equal quadrants. Public and private buildings are laid out according to a strict plan: the great palace of the Caliph and the mosque in the south-east quarter occupies the highest part of the site, while the small palaces and the baths are located in the north-east quarter to facilitate the functioning and evacuation of waste waters.

Secondary functions and living quarters are distributed in the north-west and south-west quarters.

The ruins are dominated by spectacular vestiges of a monumental Tetrapylon, as well as by the walls and colonnades of the Umayyad palace, three levels of which have been preserved. These structures incorporate decorative or architectonical elements of the Roman era.







(1) **Palace**



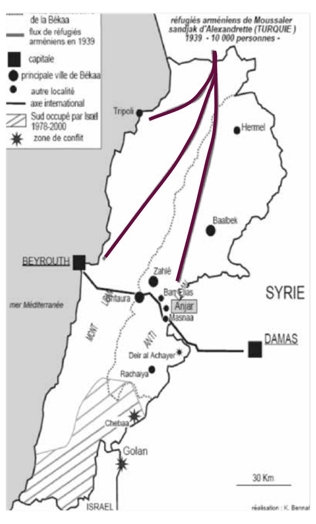


(3) **Second Palace**



(6) **Kardus Maximus**

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS



8th Century B.C. - Greco Roman Period
Traces of Roman and Greek presence in and around the area of Anjar such as the Roman ruins of Majdal Anjar.

705 A.D. - Founding of Anjar
Anjar was founded during the Umayyad period under Caliph Walid ibn ‘Abd Al-Malak. The site was chosen due to is strategic between two major routes (from Beirut to Damascus and location as a crossroad through the Beqaa Valley to Homs). It was a major trading city as it was situated between the north-south and east-west trade routes of the Arabian Peninsula.



715 A.D. - Prosperity of Anjar
Caliph Walid ibn ‘Abd Al-Malak dies, the construction process is halted but the city prospers for years under his son Caliph Ibrahim. At its peak, Anjar housed more than market arcades separated by columns in the typical Roman style as well as bath houses, two palaces, and a mosque.

744 A.D. - Abandonment of Anjar
The Abbasid Caliphate defeats Caliph Ibrahim and over-runs the city. After the devastating raid, the city was abandoned and fell into disuse.

1939 A.D. - Arrival of Armenian Refugees
Arrival of the Armenian refugees from Musa Dagh, Turkey, with the help of the French. The refugees set up a camp on top of the ruins which was buried beneath a hill. They were the first settlers since the abandonment of the ancient city.

1949 A.D. - Discovery of Excavations of Ruins
As the Armenians began constructing on their village, ruins were discovered and excavations were initiated.

1984 A.D. - Recognition of The Umayyad Ruins of Anjar as a Unesco World Heritage Site





EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Thus far, most of Anjar has been excavated with some restoration initiatives, including one of the Tetrapylons, and the southern half of the great palace. However, continuing excavation is necessary to uncover the vast remains of a substantial residential section to the southwest of the site.

Protection of the archaeological vestiges is ensured through regular maintenance (weeding and consolidation of the structures). A management plan is under preparation. The expropriation of parcels of land adjacent to the archaeological site is ongoing to counter urban development and provide a double band of protection for the site.

